



MICHIGAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
P.O. Box 30014  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the House Standing Committee  
on  
Natural Resources

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Wednesday, February 28, 2018                      9:00 a.m.                      Room 326, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Representative Gary Howell, Chair.

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The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives Howell, Maturen, Bellino, Rendon, VanderWall, Sowerby, Chang, and Cambensy. (8/9)**  
Member absent and excused was **Representative LaFave. (1/9)**  
The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

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The Chair laid before the committee the minutes of February 21, 2018 as printed.

**Representative Bellino moved to adopt the minutes of February 21, 2018, as printed. There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the minutes were adopted as printed.**

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The Chair laid before the committee House Bill 5180.

**HB 5638 (Miller)**                      Water; conservation; adverse resource impact from water withdrawal; revise standards for determining.

Marla R. Braun, Legislative Assistant for Representative Aaron Miller, the bill sponsor, explained the bill.

Matt Smego, Manager of Michigan Farm Bureau's Government Relations, testified in support of the bill and introduced Jonathan White, owner of Rolling Meadows Farms, Doug Bloom, a Branch County farmer, Larry Walton, Director at Large for Michigan Farm Bureau, and Laura A. Campbell, Manager of Michigan Farm Bureau's Agriculture Ecology, who testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

Representative Aaron Miller, the bill sponsor, explained the bill and introduced Todd Feenstra, Senior Hydrogeologist and owner of Tritium Incorporated, who testified in support of the bill. Questions followed. A copy of his handout is attached.

Dennis Iott, owner of Iott Seed Farms and a member of Potato Growers of Michigan, testified in support of the bill. Questions followed.

Howard Reeves, representing the United States Geological Survey, submitted a testimony card wishing to speak and stating his position is neutral on the bill.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in support of the bill, but did not speak:

Jason Geer, Director of Energy & Environmental Policy for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce;

Amanda Fisher, Assistant State Director of National Federation of Independent Business of Michigan;

Maureen Watson Bulger, representing Michigan Corn Growers Association;

Michael Wenkel, representing Potato Growers of Michigan;

John McGee, representing Michigan Valley Irrigation;

Jennifer Feenstra, representing Tritium Incorporated;

Justin Clement, representing Michigan Ground Water Association;

Jason Walther, representing Walther Farms;

Jeff Thorlund, representing Potato Growers of Michigan;

Don Sklarczyk, representing Sklarczyk Seed Farm;

Mitch Bigelow;

Seth Earl, representing Michigan Farm Bureau;

David Dreves;

Caleb Henjgers, representing Henjgers Farms;

Allan Robinette, representing Robinette Orchards;

Greg Bird, representing Michigan Vegetable Council;

Seth Miller;

Matt Munfell, representing Munfel Farms;

Michael Genovese, representing Summer Dreams Farm;

Jason Smith;

Ben Russell;

Lyndon Kelly;

Edward L. Kretchman;

Vernon AcMoody, representing Farm Bureau;

Luke Lindsey, representing Lindsey Farms;

Jason Stanton;

Thomas Farms;

Rita Herford, representing Gentner-Bischer Farms;

Scott Karnatz;

Terry Finegan, representing Finegan Farms, LLC;

Emily Reinart;  
Jenna Mignano, representing Michigan Farmers and Farm Bureau;  
Dan Gauger, representing Michigan Irrigation Association;  
Sean Mumby, Wakeshma Farms, LL, and Mendon Seed Growers;  
Daniela Dryer, representing Dryer Farms and Daughters;  
Jasper Cunningham;  
Jeremy Walker, representing Michigan Irrigation Association;  
Steve Thelen, representing Washtenaw County Farm Bureau;  
Hamah Meyen;  
Lori Schrauben;  
Cody Ferry, representing Michigan Farm Bureau; and  
Grant Reiff, representing Michigan Farm Bureau.

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in opposition to the bill, but did not speak:  
Dennis Eade, Executive Director of Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association \*;  
James Clift, Policy Director for the Michigan Environmental Council\*;  
Amy Trotter, Deputy Director for Michigan United Conservation Clubs;  
Frank Ruswick;  
Tom Mc Graw, representing Pere Marquette TV and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers;  
David P. Lusch, a member of the Water Use Advisory Council;  
Tom Baird, Chair of the Legal and Government Relations Committee for the Anglers of the AuSable;  
Nicholas Occhipinti, Government Affairs Director Michigan League of Conservation Voters;  
William Wood, Executive Director of West Michigan Environmental Action Council;  
Nathan Murphy, State Director of Environment Michigan;  
Sean McBrearty, Campaign Organizer for Clean Water Action;  
Marc Smith, Senior Policy Manager for the National Wildlife Federation; and  
Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director for Michigan Trout Unlimited.

\* Submitted written testimony in opposition to the bill. A copy is attached

The following individuals submitted a testimony card in opposition to the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Michael Berkowitz, Legislative and Political Director for the Sierra Club;  
Tom Baird, For Love of Water board member; and  
Molly Flanagan, Vice President of Policy for Alliance for the Great Lakes.

David Hamilton, representing Nature Conservancy, submitted written testimony, which is attached.

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**Representative Rendon moved to excuse Representative LaFave from today's committee meeting.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the member was excused.**

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There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Cambensy moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 10:33 a.m.

The Chair declared the Committee adjourned.

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Gary Howell, Chair  
House Standing Committee on Natural Resources

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Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee