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Date: May 22, 2018
To: Michigan House Transportation Committee
From: Andrew Vermeesch
Legislative Counsel, Michigan Farm Bureau
Re: Written Testimony on House Bill 5945

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to the House Transportation Committee in support of HB 5945.

Michigan Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 41,000 farm family members. Our policy efforts are grassroots driven – where local members develop, debate, and adopt our policy positions on an annual basis, first at the county and then state-level.

Michigan's agriculture industry provides over \$100 billion of economic activity and is one of the lead drivers in the state's economy. In order for Michigan's food and agriculture system to continue prospering, the industry relies on a sound transportation network to get their products to and from market.

In various locations around the state, small communities are passing no truck route ordinances that prohibit commercial trucks on certain roads. The purpose is to redirect commercial trucks to a certain road or away from a specific location. Unfortunately, this is having a negative impact for many of the local farmers in the area. These producers are generally traveling short distances to and from the farm field and/or market. This traffic from the farmer is often seasonal in nature, for example during harvest time when they take their crops out of the fields.

HB 5945 would allow local communities to maintain authority to prohibit commercial trucks from certain local roads without negatively impacting the local farmers that rely on these routes for agricultural production.

Michigan Farm Bureau asks for your support on HB 5945 to provide an exemption for agricultural movement from ordinances prohibiting commercial truck traffic on select routes. Again, thank you for your consideration, our organization looks forward to continuing to work with the committee to improve Michigan's transportation network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Vermeesch'.

Andrew Vermeesch
Legislative Counsel

