

Members of the Michigan Legislature:

Your constituents and our Michigan communities statewide continue to face hardships caused by supply chain issues and empty grocery store shelves, with shortages and delays everywhere. The situation we are experiencing has been building for decades, and only further compounded by the pandemic.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to — **together** — make a transformational difference for Michigan consumers through support of advancements within the food and agriculture system.

This system includes Michigan farmers, who are some of the best in the world at feeding our families, protecting our environment and natural resources by being good stewards of the land and water, and serving as an economic driver and job provider. This network also includes critical stakeholders like processors, retailers and food distribution centers who help ensure healthy food gets to your kitchen table.

Innovation is a priority for our organizations and members and is a necessity to take agriculture to the next level and subsequently support our ability to provide healthy and abundant food and agricultural goods.

Through the appropriations process, Michigan is poised to spend billions of dollars on one-time projects, and we must ensure these projects are innovative and deliberate.

	Gross	Federal	Other	GF/GP
Ag Infrastructure	\$250,000,000	\$200,000,000	\$0	\$50,000,000
Ag Labor Housing	\$55,000,000	\$55,000,000	\$0	\$0
Ag Career Certification	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0
Food Distribution	\$250,000,000	\$200,000,000	\$0	\$50,000,000
Local Food Bank Support	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0
MSU Dairy Barn	\$45,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,800,000
Protein Processors	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$0	\$0
Statewide Fair	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0
UP Fair	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Total Ag and Rural Development Supplemental	\$706,800,000	\$561,000,000	\$0	\$145,800,000

The MSU Research Greenhouse Complex and Dairy Cattle Teaching & Research Center are both critical pieces to the agriculture industry and, regardless of the funding mechanism, need to be included in the budgeting process to ensure Michigan remains on the forefront of research and innovation with modern facilities and equipment. The MSU Research Greenhouse Complex is not included within SB 885 (S-3).

The items listed in the table above are included in SB 885 (S-3) as appropriations requests and are supported by the signatories of this letter. We are counting on your support for these items and timely action in the coming weeks.

Carl Bednarski
Michigan Farm Bureau

Dave Armstrong
GreenStone Farm Credit Services

Chuck Lippstreu
Michigan Agri-Business Association

Allison Brink
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries

Joe Cramer
Michigan Bean Commission

Dawn Drake
Michigan Processing Apple Growers

Dawn Drake
Michigan Processing Asparagus Growers

Amy Upton
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association

Matt Breslin
Michigan Food Processors Association

Greg Bird
The Michigan Vegetable Council, INC

Dr. Phil Knight
Food Bank Council of Michigan

Jody Pollok-Newsom
Michigan Wheat Program

Amy Start
Michigan Christmas Tree Association

Ben Smith
Michigan State Horticultural Society

Diane Smith
Michigan Apple Association

Gary Wruble
Michigan Celery Promotion Cooperative, Inc.

Scott Corrin
Dairy Farmers of America

Marty Gerencer

West Michigan Food Processing Association

Jim Zook
Michigan Corn Association

Dan Carmody
Eastern Market Partnership

Kelly Turner
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc.

Joe Diglio
Michigan Milk Producers Association

Michelle Sears
Michigan Association of Timbermen

Andrew Martin
Meijer

Brian Boerigter
Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative, Inc

Rodney P. Crittenden
Great Lakes Floral Association

Dave Girton
Michigan Cattlemen's Association

Jared Rodriguez
Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council

Janna Fritz
Michigan Soybean Association

Amy Drumm
Michigan Retailers Association

Dan Vogler
Michigan Aquaculture Association

Jason Wadaga
Michigan Dairy Foods Association

Julie Gordon
Cherry Marketing Institute

Rex Schultz
Michigan Blueberry Advisory Committee