



JULIAN VAIL, LLC

NEWS & NOTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2008

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

House

Appropriations: Agriculture

February 20, 2008

9:00 a.m.

307 House Office Building

Chair: Rep. John Espinoza

Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources

February 19, 2008

10:30 a.m.

521 House Office Building

Chair: Rep. Joel Sheltroun

Senate

Appropriations: K-12, School Aid, Education

February 19, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Senate Appropriations Room,

3rd Floor, Capitol Building

Chair: Sen. Ron Jelinek

Judiciary

February 19, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Room 210, Farnum Building

Chair: Sen. Wayne Kuipers

Appropriations: State Police & Military Affairs

February 21, 2008

3:00 p.m.

Room 402-403,

Capitol Building

Chair: Sen. Valde Garcia

HIGHWAY BRIDGE SAFETY REPORTS

Are you interested in the condition of bridges in your local community or across the state?

The Michigan Department of Transportation offers a Highway Bridge Report containing the history, condition and other information on Michigan bridges. The report is available online at www.michigan.gov/mdot, click on the Bridges, Borders and Ferries tab.

2008 MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE SCHEDULE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- February 19 1:30 p.m.
- February 20 1:30 p.m.
- February 21 12:00 p.m.
- February 26 1:30 p.m.
- February 27 1:30 p.m.
- February 28 12:00 p.m.

SENATE

- February 19 10:00 a.m.
- February 20 10:00 a.m.
- February 21 10:00 a.m.
- February 26 10:00 a.m.
- February 27 10:00 a.m.
- February 28 10:00 a.m.

NEW RENEWABLE FUELS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Michigan legislature has introduced a bipartisan, bicameral legislative package aimed to increase the use and production of renewable fuels in Michigan. The package will do so by offering more tools and assistance to producers, distributors and users of biodiesel and ethanol.

Based on recommendations by the Renewable Fuels Commission, this legislation will:

Provide tax exemptions for specialized equipment used to harvest biofuel-crops;

- Develop five additional agricultural Renaissance zones;
- Create a business tax credit for stations that install renewable-fuel pumps;
- Provide income tax credits and reduced sales tax for new renewable-fuel vehicles;
- Identify existing facilities that could produce renewable fuels from by-products;
- Create educational tools to encourage renewable-fuel plants to locate in Michigan;
- Allow fuel retailers to obtain renewable fuels from non-franchise distributors;
- Require the state to develop biofuel standards to improve consumer confidence;
- Expand the use of road signs to advertise renewable fuels;
- Extend the Renewable Fuels Commission until 2012;
- Create a biofuels license plate and a Renewable Fuels Fund for biofuels promotion.

Keep watch for updates as this moves forward in the legislature. For more information visit www.michigan.gov/mda, click on the Food and Agribusiness tab, then Michigan's bioeconomy.

"BUY MICHIGAN FIRST" INITIATIVE SUPPORTS MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) recently agreed to purchase Michigan-grown potatoes for state prisons for the next four years. The contract will save the state approximately \$248,000.

In addition to the cost savings, the program boosts the Michigan economy and emphasizes the value of local farmers.

"Purchasing Michigan-grown potatoes not only saves state dollars, but also gives an economic boost to state producers and local communities," said Michigan Department of Agriculture director, Don Koivisto. "When \$1 is spent locally, that \$1 impacts three to seven different local businesses before leaving the local economy.

To learn more about the "Buy Michigan First" program, visit www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY TO HOST AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

The 4th annual Ag Day at the Capitol will be held March 19, 2008 at the Capitol Building in Lansing. Agriculture industry members will be displaying their products and educational materials for the public and legislators to promote the diversity and importance of Michigan's agriculture industry.

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