

Minutes of the State Agricultural and Bioeconomy Joint Committee with the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Room 110 Farnum Building

- Chairman Van Woerkom called the Committee to order at 3:10 p.m.
- Members Present: Van Woerkom, Gilbert and Gleason.
- Chairman Brown gave a brief introduction and explanation of Senate Concurrent Resolution 24
- Chairman Van Woerkom reiterated Chairman Brown's statements and elaborated on the accountability of the Agriculture Director to the Commission on Agriculture.
- Chairman Van Woerkom also conveyed his concerns with the placement of the Horse Racing Commissioner.
- Chairman Brown introduces Sen. Kuipers to testify on behalf of SCR 24.
- Sen. Kuipers testified that he sponsored SCR 24 after listening to the agriculture committee in his district. He described the importance of the Commission on Agriculture and the need for it to remain the same.
- Sen. Gleason mentioned the importance of educating and advocating for agriculture in Michigan and he commended the advances made, but questioned whether this will slow down.
- Chairman Brown invited former Director of Agriculture Dan Wyant to testify.
- Dan Wyant testified in support of SCR 24 and he stressed his opposition to the Governor's Executive Order No. 2009-45.
- Past Agriculture Commissioner, Doug Darling, testified in support of SCR 24 and mentioned his 12 years of experience as a commissioner.
- Tonia Ritter of Michigan Farm Bureau testified in support of SCR 24 and clarified that FB does not oppose the combination on the MDNR and MDEQ but does oppose the selection of the Agriculture Director.
- Chairman Van Woerkom asked Tonia if the Michigan Farm Bureau, being such a recognized leader in Michigan, was consulted when the E.O. was developed.
- Tonia said the short answer was no, the MI FB did not this erosion of management.
- Monte Bordner from the Michigan Cattleman's Association testified in support of SCR 24 and described his association's opposition to the Governor's E.O.
- Kim Rhead from the Michigan AgriBusiness Association and the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers testified in support of SCR 24.
- Larry Julian from Racing, MI Standard Bred Breeders and the Equine Partnership testified in support to SCR 24.
- Amy Spray from Michigan United Conservation Clubs testified in support of SCR 24 mentioning MUCC's support of the merger of MDNR & MDEQ but not the appointment of the Director of the Natural Resources Committee and Agriculture Committee.
- Sen. Gilbert motioned to excuse Sen. Whitmer. His motion was supported by Sen. Birkholz.

- Doug Roberts from MI Chamber of Commerce supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Mickey Knight from MHHA supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Randy Gross from MI Manufacturers Association opposes SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Garry Wiley from MI Cattleman's Association supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Kathleen Hawkins from MI Cattleman's Association supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Meredith Johnson from Heart of the Lakes supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Dawn Pline from MI Porcessing Apple Growers supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Howard Tanner, former DNR Director supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- John Vandenburg from Greenhouse supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Brad Comment from MI Sugar Company and MI Dairy Food Association supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Val Vail-Shirey from MI Equine Partnership supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Steve Zylstra from Zylstra Bulbs & Greenhouse supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Paul Karlovich from Karlovich Greenhouse supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Claudia Cary-Davidson from Standardbred Racing supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Pale Zahn from Harness Racing & County Fair supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Mark Elzinga from Elzinga Greenhouse supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Howard Taylor from MEP supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Aaron Rice from MI Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Kim Fricke-Young from Equine World Insurance supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Wayne Wood & Bon Boehm from MI Farm Bureau supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Rebecca Park from MI Nursery and Landscape Assn. MI Soybean Assn. & supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Jody Pollok from MI Corn Growers supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Dan Javor from MI Milk Producers supports SCR 24 but does not wish to testify.
- Senator Gilbert motioned to excuse Senator Birkholz and Sen. Whitmer.
- With no more business before the committee Senator Gilbert motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.