



**Michigan
Agri-Business
Association**

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Michigan Agri-Business Association statement on S.B. 437 and 438

May 25, 2016

Statement of Jim Byrum, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, regarding S.B. 437 and 438:

On behalf of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, we oppose the S-3 versions of S.B. 437 and 438.

Energy efficiency is a top priority for our industry, and we oppose these bills because they do not preserve the strong energy efficiency standards that have allowed our industry to work with the utilities on energy savings. We have repeatedly emphasized the need for energy efficiency standards that, at least, mirror those contained in current law, and we are concerned that these bills provide utilities little encouragement to maintain their award-winning energy efficiency programs.

Prior to the current energy law in Michigan, utilities had virtually no energy efficiency programs in place serving agriculture, and the more than 40 energy efficiency programs available today for agriculture are the direct result of the mandatory standards contained in current law. We are concerned that the savings provided to businesses and farmers, as well as reduced energy use and opportunities for future savings through technological advances would not happen under the new legislation.

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