MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
INVESTMENT IN MICHIGAN'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development recognizes the importance of the state and local transportation network to the food and agriculture sector and our rural communities. The sector is dependent on a sound transportation system to move inputs, raw materials, ingredients, and products along the food and agriculture supply chain and on to consumers; and

WHEREAS, improving Michigan's transportation system will create jobs, attract business, and strengthen our overall economy. We believe state and local road agencies should be adequately funded so they are able to properly fund routine maintenance and ensure safe and efficient roadways to all motorists, including businesses; and

WHEREAS, a sound and modern infrastructure is vital to attracting and retaining jobs. Michigan put the world on wheels. The state needs to continue to be a transportation leader in order to maintain its competitive edge in today's global economy. A modern transportation system that moves people and goods safely, reliably, and efficiently is critical to our economic competitiveness and to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the deteriorating condition of Michigan's roads and bridges is an issue in every part of the state. Years of under-investment, coupled with increased fuel efficiency, has eroded the funding available for transportation and accelerated the decline in pavement and bridge condition; and

WHEREAS, both state and local road agencies have taken steps to improve asset management, increase the effectiveness of existing investment, reduce costs, and employ innovative approaches that make the most of their limited funding; and

WHEREAS, despite these efforts, it is clear that without significant additional investment, our roads and bridges will only continue to worsen, resulting in delays and increased costs to the food and agriculture sector. Michigan's road and highway maintenance budgets have regularly seen funding shortfalls over the last several years, and these funding deficiencies are growing due to the rising maintenance costs coupled with increases in automotive fuel economy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development urges investment in Michigan's transportation infrastructure system, and encourages all residents of the state to become involved in conversations on how to improve Michigan's transportation infrastructure.

Trever Meachum

Adopted March 18, 2015
East Lansing, Michigan