



Michigan Agri-Business Association

September 20, 2023

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

Chair Pohutsky and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA), a nonprofit trade association representing more than 300 Michigan businesses at all points on the food production chain, I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 26.

MABA does not oppose the spirit of this legislation, in terms of ensuring those Michigan communities most affected by air pollution benefit from fines levied by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for air quality violations. However, such a fund should not be used for staffing and operations at EGLE and we oppose the bill on those grounds.

Because some air quality violations are issued based on subjective inspection criteria, SB 26 creates an incentive for the Department to maximize the number of violations identified and fines issued using these criteria. We are concerned this will lead to violations and fines for nonhazardous air quality conditions, such as certain food production and processing odors, that would not today be found in violation.

Our member companies strive to be good partners with the communities where they are located. In many cases they invest heavily to prevent air quality issues from arising. We oppose SB 26 because the proposal creates a new vehicle to increase EGLE operations revenue at the expense of local businesses, regardless of the businesses' stewardship efforts.

We appreciate your time and consideration, and urge you to oppose SB 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Lippstreu", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Chuck Lippstreu
President
Michigan Agri-Business Association