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Date: November 10, 2010

To: Honorable Members of the House New Economy & Quality of Life Committee

From: Matt Smego   
Legislative Counsel

Re: Testimony on SB 437, SB 1345-1349, SB 1487, SB 1442-1443, HB 6358-6363, and HB 6416 -6417

Michigan Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization representing over 47,000 farming family members supports the Brownfield redevelopment package of bills. Farm Bureau's grassroots policy is developed, debated, and adopted by Farm Bureau members at the local level. Our policy supports this package of bills for the following reasons:

- We support realistic environmental standards that enhance brownfield redevelopment. Revitalizing urban areas is an important element to the overall protection of Michigan's natural resource base.
- The improvement of cities, greater utilization of current infrastructure, and redevelopment of existing brownfields will result in reduced pressure to develop farmland.
- The bills move forward ideals of the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council final report that acknowledges government decisions related to redevelopment of brownfields must be streamlined and current environmental clean-up procedures must be examined to identify areas where decisions can be expedited and the process simplified.
- Reform is critically needed within Michigan government. Michigan's regulatory structure must change as it is not conducive to growing business in Michigan. We strongly support regulatory reform.

We urge your support for this package of bills!