MICHIGAN PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Statement by Michigan Pork Producers Association on Senate Bills 1136, 1137 and 1138

Michigan Pork Producers Association represents Michigan's 2,100 pork producers. Michigan pork producers, according to an Iowa State University economic analysis, generate more than $250 million of personal income and support $343.4 million of gross state product. A significant component of that economic activity is from pork exports. Nearly 700 jobs and $27.9 million of personal income are generated for the state from exports of Michigan-grown pork. Michigan's 2,100 pork producers market over 2 million hogs per year and help create approximately 5,300 pork-related jobs for the state.

Increasing numbers of feral swine in this state pose a huge threat to the Michigan pork industry. Feral swine are known carriers of diseases such as pseudorabies that, prior to its eradication in the domestic swine population, cost pork producers millions of dollars annually in animal losses, vaccine costs and impaired herd performance. Re-introduction of the pseudorabies virus by feral swine into Michigan's commercial swine herd could effectively prevent animal movement and close the export market to Michigan producers. This could be devastating to the Michigan pork industry. In addition, Michigan producers move thousands of hogs weekly to surrounding states to be fed out on a contractual basis and an outbreak of pseudorabies could effectively close the border prohibiting movement to finishing facilities in other states. This, too, could have a devastating effect on the Michigan pork industry.

For several years, Michigan's pork producers have been alarmed by the burgeoning numbers of feral swine in this state and the huge threat these animals pose to the domestic pork industry. Michigan needs to move aggressively to implement efforts to bring these animals under control and for that reason Michigan's pork producers enthusiastically support passage of SB 1136, SB 1137 and SB 1138 as an important first step in dealing with the problems growing numbers of feral swine pose. It should also be noted that these animals can destroy natural resources and crops and devastate the habitat in which they reside.

Again, Michigan Pork Producers Association and Michigan's 2,100 pork producers encourage passage of these bills as an important first step in bringing Michigan's feral swine population under control.

Respectfully submitted by,

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