



Michigan Agri-Business Association

1501 North Shore Drive, Suite A
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

www.miagbiz.org

Telephone (517) 336-0223

Fax (517) 336-0227

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, February 23, 2015
Contact: Chuck Lippstreu, 517-242-5124

Michigan Agri-Business Association endorses Proposal 1 to fix Michigan's roads

EAST LANSING – The board of directors of the **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** today announced support for Michigan's Proposal 1, a May 5 ballot proposal to invest in fixing Michigan's roads and bridges. The board took the position given that there is no "Plan B" or other option to make needed investments in road and bridge repair, but expressed general frustration with the complexity of the funding proposal.

"Proposal 1 is an opportunity to remove a significant barrier to the continued growth of Michigan's food and agriculture industry, and while it is a complex proposal, it's the only option we see," said **Ron Brown**, president of **Brown Milling** and Chair of **MABA**. "Michigan's agriculture industry is hindered by failing roads and bridges, and moving our crops and products in an expeditious, safe and cost-competitive way is critical in today's fast-paced global marketplace."

MABA leaders said the poor condition of Michigan's roads, bridges and other infrastructure puts our state at a competitive disadvantage well into the future, as roads and other transportation infrastructure currently in disrepair will only continue to deteriorate without a comprehensive solution.

"Michigan is poised to continue leading on agriculture, but our industry is counting on the modern infrastructure necessary to do business," said **Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**. "This process could have been quicker and cleaner, but the current proposal is all that is before us."

###