



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: Tuesday, January 20, 2014

Contact: Chuck Lippstreu
clippstreu@byrumfisk.com
517-242-5124

Michigan Agri-Business Association praises continued focus on Cuba by President Obama, Sen. Stabenow *Byrum says State of the Union comments, recent Congressional delegation point to new opportunities for Michigan agriculture*

LANSING – New engagement by the Obama Administration, as outlined by President Barack Obama in his State of the Union Address, could lead to important new opportunities for Michigan agriculture, said **Jim Byrum**, president of the **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** in a statement Tuesday evening.

“Normalized trade relations with Cuba are a positive step forward for Michigan’s agriculture industry, and we appreciate President Obama’s continued focus on this issue as he outlined tonight in his State of the Union address,” said **Byrum**. “Expanding trade with Cuba presents new opportunity to grow Michigan’s agriculture sector and create jobs in rural Michigan. This is also a positive development for the Cuban people, and could provide an opportunity for Michigan agriculture to help boost their economy and agricultural production capacity.

Here in Michigan, we are also lucky to have U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow being proactive on opportunities to expand trade with Cuba and working on our behalf from her post on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

We look forward to being engaged on this important issue and we will be engaging with the Michigan Congressional delegation, the Obama Administration and others to be sure Michigan agriculture takes full advantage of this potential opportunity.”

###