



Michigan Agri-Business Association

June 4, 2024

Members of the Michigan Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA), a nonprofit trade association representing nearly 300 businesses spanning the agricultural value chain. We strongly support House Bill (HB) 5056 and 5058 which will bolster critical 4-H youth programs serving our state. MABA applauds the bipartisan spirit of this legislation and thanks the House sponsors of the bills, Rep. Miller and Rep. Bierlein for their leadership. We also appreciate this Committee for taking up the legislation in the Michigan Senate.

HB 5056 and 5058 equip drivers in our state to demonstrate their support of 4-H through a specialty license plate, with proceeds benefiting the Michigan 4-H Foundation. This foundation supports 4-H educational programming, which in turn benefits young people from our smallest towns to our largest cities.

4-H leads a wide range of after-school programs, summer camps, fairs and mentoring programs, giving young people access to new opportunities, teaching new skills and helping them to gain confidence. Many of these programs center on agricultural and food production, which remains one of the strongest economic drivers and job creators in our state. By bolstering agricultural education programs such as 4-H, we can open new doors for young people to learn about a thriving industry in Michigan. The creation of the new 4-H Foundation license plate is one important way to help achieve that goal.

I appreciate members of the Committee for considering these important, bipartisan proposals and urge you to support them. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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
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