



FEBRUARY, 2008

MICHIGAN FLORICULTURE
GROWERS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 544, Dewitt, Michigan, 48820-0544 • phone: (517) 420-7142
fax: (517) 669-3354 • e-mail: MFGC5@comcast.net • web site www.mifgc.org

For Immediate Release

MFGC SELECTS POLICY ISSUES FOR 2008

The Michigan Floriculture Growers Council's third year is starting strong with a focus on issues of importance to Michigan growers. The MFGC Policy Committee has established the following list of important policy topics for the coming year. The list will serve as a tool for Julian Vail, a firm contracted to serve as public policy advisors, working with Executive Director, Gale Arent, to monitor pertinent legislation and communicate MFGC priorities to state legislators.

STATE ISSUES:

Water – Michigan growers should pay no withdrawal fees or unreasonable permit fees while having continued access to needed water resources.

Labor – Michigan growers should have continued access to labor resources with reasonable employee regulations that do not place undue burden on the employer.

Business Tax – MFGC will monitor new tax impacts from a grower's point of view and be prepared to address unanticipated tax consequences or unreasonable tax burdens.

State Budget – MFGC will monitor and protect funding for MSU Extension, MI Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan Department of Agriculture (pest management and agriculture statistics) and monitor the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to assess grower impact of any environmental regulations and/or fees.

FEDERAL ISSUES:

Farm Bill – MFGC will monitor development of the Farm Bill with attention to the specialty crops section, the energy section and funding for the IFAFS (the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems.)

Energy Policy – MFGC will pursue energy policies that enable growers to adapt to high energy costs, focusing on energy conservation technologies and bio-energy sources.

Immigration and Labor – MFGC will monitor legislation on immigration and agricultural labor issues to assess their effect on labor resources for growers.

MFGC is the Michigan floriculture advocacy organization founded in 2006. Members receive a monthly e-newsletter updating them on these policy issues. Further information and a membership application can be found at www.mifgc.org.

###

