

RESOLUTION OPPOSING A VETO OF MSUE AND MAES FUNDING FROM THE  
STATE

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 4, 2009

WHEREAS, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) have had a valued partnership with county, state and federal government for 86 years; and

WHEREAS, state budget decisions related to our partnership are of extreme concern, with the potential of a line-item veto resulting in zero funding for MSUE and MAES; and

WHEREAS, the impact of our state partner's decision has devastating consequences for MSUE and our county partners, as more than 80 percent of state funding supports the staff members of MSUE; and

WHEREAS, every county and every legislative district will be affected by a veto of MAES and MSUE funding, which are outreach programs that make a significant impact on people's lives; and

WHEREAS, if funding lines are vetoed, MSUE will be forced to cancel all county- and campus-based programs and meetings immediately, and the MAES will immediately close 17 research stations across the state; and

WHEREAS, MAES and MSUE are providing the research for the green economy and translating that research into the creation of new jobs for Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, MAES and MSUE funds generated a total economic impact for the State of Michigan of \$1.062 billion; and, for every \$1 provided by the state, MAES and MSUE generated another \$2.33 for research and Extension work in Michigan, and, with a veto, this income would be lost, with much of it going to other states; and,

WHEREAS, the reputation of MSU will be damaged, and it will take years to restore the faith of federal and foundation funders and private donors. Now, therefore, be it

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor to sign the Higher Education budget as passed by the Legislature.