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**Agri-Business Association calls on Legislature to
ensure mandatory energy efficiency in state law**
*MABA president says energy efficiency standards
pushed utilities to better serve agriculture*

LANSING – The **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** today called on the Michigan Legislature to ensure that any rewrite of Michigan’s energy law includes mandatory energy optimization standards, which were included in Michigan’s previous energy policy (P.A. 295 of 2008) and helped push Michigan’s utilities to create new opportunities for agriculture.

“Our industry is proud of the work we have achieved along with Michigan’s utilities to save energy, and we have been clear that the energy efficiency standards currently in state law drove much of that progress,” **Byrum** said. “In addition to more than 40 new energy efficiency programs, the Energy Optimization Standard currently in state law is the reason new pilot programs are being offered by DTE Energy to major grain handlers and the dairy industry. These programs are especially important at this time as the agricultural industry is experiencing lower commodity prices, and farmers and businesses are working hard to identify common-sense savings.”

While the bills scheduled to be considered today by the **Michigan Senate Energy and Technology Committee** include voluntary incentives for energy efficiency, they contain no requirements or enforcement, leaving utilities little encouragement to maintain their award winning energy efficiency programs, if the bills become law.

Byrum emphasized that prior to the current energy law in Michigan, utilities had virtually no energy efficiency programs in place serving agriculture. He said it is clear that the programs available today are the direct result of the mandatory standards contained in current law. The savings to businesses and farmers, and reduced energy use would not happen under the new legislation.

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