



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee

Sunday, July 9, and Tuesday, July 11

Westin Book Cadillac Detroit :: 1114 Washington Blvd :: Detroit, Michigan

Agenda

MLA Steven Bonk, Saskatchewan, and Sen. Marci Francisco, Kansas, MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Co-Chairs; and Rep. Paul Thomas, North Dakota, Committee Vice Chair

Sunday, July 9

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Lunch for MLC Policy Committees | Founders AB, Third Floor

3-4:30 p.m.

Committee Meeting | Woodward A, Second Floor

Participants will explore opportunities for the Midwest's states, agriculture producers and rural communities under the next U.S. farm bill and for the provinces under the new Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership. Time also will be reserved for discussion and any committee business.

Speakers:

- *MLA Steven Bonk, Member of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly*
- *Roman Keeney, Associate Professor, Purdue University, Center for Food and Agricultural Business*

Tuesday, July 11

9-10:15 a.m.

MLC Chair's Initiative Session On Food Security: Feeding the Future | Venetian Ballroom, Fourth Floor

A panel of experts will lead a session that aims to provide a greater understanding of the causes and extent of food insecurity in the Midwest. The session will explore policy options on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, as well as the role of agriculture producers and local food systems. Michigan Sen. Roger Victory, MLC chair, will moderate the session.

Speakers and Panelists:

- *Craig Gundersen, Snee Family Endowed Chair, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty*
- *M. Jahi Johnson-Chappell, Director of the Center for Regional Food Systems, Michigan State University*
- *Phil Knight, Executive Director, Food Bank Council of Michigan*
- *Valerie Tarasuk, Professor, University of Toronto Department of Nutritional Services; Principal Investigator, PROOF Research Program on Food Insecurity*

2-3:30 p.m.

Future of Farmland in the Midwest | Venetian Ballroom, Fourth Floor

State laws (some new, some longstanding) reflect concerns about the loss of farmland across the Midwest. There also are mounting pressures related to a rise in renewable energy development. This session will look at the loss of farmland as well as emerging ideas such as agrivoltaics that allow agricultural and solar production to co-exist.

Speakers:

- *M. Charles Gould, Bioenergy Educator, Michigan State University Extension*
- *Kristopher Reynolds, Midwest Director, American Farmland Trust*