



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## MLC AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Saturday, July 20, 2024 - Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Room(s) TBD | Hyatt Regency Columbus | Columbus, Ohio

### Preliminary Agenda

MLA Steven Bonk, Saskatchewan, Co- Chair | Sen. Marci Francisco, Kansas, Co-Chair  
Rep. Paul Thomas, North Dakota, Vice Chair

#### SATURDAY, JULY 20 | PRE-CONFERENCE LEARNING SITE TOUR | *Departure location TBD*

12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

##### **Economic Development Tour of Dublin and Marion, Ohio**

This economic development tour will take you to the revitalized rural Ohio community of Marion, as well as the economically thriving town of Dublin. It also includes a visit to the restored home of President Warren G. Harding, 29<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

Separate registration is required; please contact Becky Leis, [rleis@csg.org](mailto:rleis@csg.org) or (630) 925-1922, to reserve a seat or for more information. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 21 | COMMITTEE MEETING | Room *TBD*

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.

##### **Welcome and Introductions**

9:10 – 9:55 a.m.

##### **The Science and Policies of Soil Health**

Once considered abundant, agricultural land is now seen as a natural resource needing preservation measures to address increasing demands on it for producing food, fuel, energy, and climate mitigation strategies. This session will feature a presentation on the science and policies regarding soil health considerations.

*Presenter*

**Dr. Rattan Lal**, *Distinguished Professor of Soil Science, The Ohio State University*

9:55 – 10:45 a.m.

##### **Roundtable Discussion: State and Provincial Strategies and Programs**

Committee leaders, members and meeting participants will engage in a discussion on state approaches regarding soil health policies particularly in the areas of water management, cover crops and carbon sequestration.

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

##### **Discussion of committee business and consideration of proposed resolutions**

MONDAY, JULY 22 | JOINT COMMITTEE-SPONSORED LEARNING SITE TOUR | *Departure location TBD*

2:00– 5:00 p.m. Molly Caren Agricultural Center and Savion Solar Project

The Ohio State University’s Molly Caren Agricultural Center features 1,200 acres of crops grown with the latest agronomy and precision agriculture technologies. Attendees will learn from experts during the bus tour and watch field demonstrations of autonomous and precision equipment. Thereafter, attendees will visit Savion’s nearby Madison Fields Solar Project that incorporates innovative ideas.

*Close-toed footwear is required.* Separate registration is required; please contact Becky Leis, [rleis@csg.org](mailto:rleis@csg.org) or (630) 925-1922, to reserve a seat or for more information. This site tour is jointly sponsored with the MLC’s Energy & Environment committee.

TUESDAY, JULY 23 | JOINT COMMITTEE-SPONSORED SESSION | *Room TBD*

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Implications of the U.S. Supreme Court cases pertaining to the *Chevron doctrine*

The MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs and Energy & Environment committees are partnering to produce this session focused on the relationship between legislatures and state and federal executive-branch agencies.

The 40-year-old *Chevron doctrine* is used by the federal courts to determine when to defer to an administrative agency’s interpretation of the statute it administers. By early July, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to issue decisions in two cases that are likely to limit the deference given to administrative agencies under the *Chevron doctrine*.

This session will feature a lead presentation by David Doniger followed by a panel discussion.

Lead Presenter:

**David Doniger**, Senior Strategist at the National Resource Defense Council, is inextricably linked to the *Chevron* doctrine having argued on behalf of the NRDC before the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1984 case, *Chevron U.S.A v. Natural Resources Defense Council*. He will give a leading presentation about the impact of the Supreme Court’s decision.

*Panelist:* **Rusty Rumley**, Senior Attorney at National Agricultural Law Center. Additional panelists TBD.