



March 2018

### **Michigan Greenhouse Growers go to Lansing**

A hearty CONGRATULATIONS to our MGGC team that attended and testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee on Tuesday, February 27. They did a stellar job on behalf of the greenhouse industry.

The Senate Agriculture Committee passed both bills, HB 4561 and HB 4564, unanimously out of committee and to the full Senate.

This was a critical step in the process and we are delighted to receive an unanimous vote to move the bills to the Senate floor. It is very important that each MGGC member contact their Senator and ask he/she to support HB 4561 and HB 4564 to preserve the agriculture sales/use tax exemption and maintain the agriculture industry in Michigan. Instructions are included below.

I want to personally thank Vice-President Dave Mast, Board Members Kevin Sportel, Lisa Ambrosio and Mike Fassbender, along with MGGC member Troy Shumaker for their tremendous testimony and time away from their businesses on behalf of all of us. Your effort is appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Tuinier".

Bill Tuinier, President

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## Contact your Senator

HB 4561 and HB 4564 now moves to the Senate for a vote of the 38 elected State Senators. Please call your senator and ask she/he to support agriculture and vote yes on HB 4561 and HB 4564 clarifying the agriculture sales/use tax exemption.

Please contact your senator by phone, email, visiting them at the local coffee shop, make an appointment in the district or Lansing office.

Contact my Senator: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html>

Read the legislation: [HB 4561 - Ag Tax Exemption](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Val at the MGGC office.

•Contact: Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council

•Val Vail-Shirey, Executive Director

•517-367-2033 office or 517-204-3591 cell

•PO Box 278, Bath, MI 48808

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## Member Recruitment

Please reach out to a greenhouse owner/manager that is not currently a MGGC member and ask them to join today. Protecting the greenhouse industry is an expensive endeavor and we must all work together for the greater good of the industry. MGGC is a voluntary organization and its sole income is from membership dues. Take this sales/use tax issue as an example. If Treasury audits you under their current interpretation of the Sales/Use tax law, it may cost you? \$40,000, \$5000, \$100,000 for sales/use tax on one improvement or new build or curtains, etc. The benefits you receive are well worth it to have a professional monitoring the government and legislation to protect your business.

[MGGC Membership Application 2018.pdf](#)

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## 2018 MGGC Board of Directors

President Bill Tuinier, Post Gardens

Vice-President Dave Mast, Andy Mast Greenhouses

Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Crum, Four Star Greenhouses

Member Susie Raker Zimmerman, Raker-Roberts's Young Plants

Member Ken Tuinier, Tuinier Brothers Greenhouse

Member Kevin Sportel, Sportel Greenhouses

Member Lisa Ambrosio, Wenke Greenhouses

WMGA Member Gord Berkenpas, GreenDorr Greenhouse

MDFG Member – Open

Allied Trade Member Mike Fassbender, Action Mold

Allied Trade Member Bob Froelich, Bayer Ornamental

Education Member Heidi Lindberg, MSUE

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## Membership Directory Update

The MGGC website will soon be under construction. Please check your listing for updates or let the office know if you would like to be listed on the website as a wholesaler or retailer.

Please visit <http://mifgc.org/directory/>

We look forward to hearing from you!

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**YOU'RE INVITED TO THIS  
PREMIER AGRICULTURAL EVENT**

# Michigan Ag Gubernatorial Forum

**A chance to meet the 2018 candidates for Michigan's governor,  
hear their positions on important issues, and ask questions.**

- **WHEN:** Monday, March 19  
Continental Breakfast – 8:30 a.m.  
Forum – 9 a.m. Adjourn – 11:30 a.m.
- **WHERE:** Kellogg Conference Center  
219 S Harrison Rd., Room Big Ten A  
East Lansing, MI 48824
- **COST:** FREE – Attendees will receive free parking in the Kellogg Center Parking Ramp. Vouchers will be handed out at the event.
- **REGISTER:** Please register by Wednesday, March 14. Space is limited. Register online at [www.micorn.org](http://www.micorn.org) or by calling (517) 669-2676.

Hosted by a broad partnership of Michigan agriculture organizations, including:



### MAEAP Certified Members

Great Lakes Greenhouses \* GreenDorr Greenhouses \* John Theisen Farm \* Kalamazoo Specialty Plants, LLC \* Ken's Greenhouse \* Klooster Greenhouses \* Micandy Gardens \* Tom's Greenhouse \* Westrate Greenhouse, Inc.

Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council  
PO Box 278  
Bath, MI 48808

**iContact**  
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