

October 31, 2007

Today I have signed Enrolled Senate Bill 222, the FY 2008 appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture. However, I am returning it to you because of items of which I disapprove pursuant to Article V, Section 19, of the Michigan Constitution. The specific vetoes are contained in the attached copy of this bill, which has been filed with the Secretary of State.

This bill provides \$109.4 million for programs that protect the health and safety of Michigan's residents, provide consumer protection, ensure animal health, and promote agriculture and the horse racing industry.

However, I have vetoed the appropriation for the cooperative resources management initiative program. I cannot support use of general fund revenues for this discretionary program during these tough fiscal times. This action is consistent with my veto of the same within Enrolled House Bill 4354.

I have also vetoed language section 703, which requires the Department of Agriculture to grant \$30,000 to the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station, which specializes in cherry industry research, as this is not part of the core functions of this department.

In addition, I believe that Section 902 is legally unenforceable, as it attempts to amend Public Act 431 of 1984 by reference.

This bill supports the essential operations of the Department of Agriculture. I commend the Legislature for its work on this budget.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Granholm

Governor