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Michigan Corn Growers Support Increased Funding for Federal Agriculture Export Programs

LANSING – The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) applauded the introduction of the CREAATE Act today, a bill that would increase investment in two federal programs with a successful record of boosting global demand for U.S. agricultural products, including corn, ethanol and meat products.

The bipartisan bill, introduced by Senators Angus King (I-Maine), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Joe Donnelly (D-Indiana), and Susan Collins (R-Maine), would increase investment in the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development program (FMD). A companion bill was introduced in the House earlier this year.

MAP and FMD are public-private partnerships that promote U.S. agriculture. Together, they are responsible for 15 percent of U.S. agricultural export revenue—\$309 billion since 1977. [A recent study found that every \\$1 invested in MAP and FMD generates \\$28 in exports.](#)

“Expanding foreign markets for Michigan corn, ethanol, DDGS and meat is critical to the future of Michigan’s corn industry,” said **Jason McConnachie**, president of the MCGA. “With more than 95 percent of the world’s consumers living outside the U.S., exports are our best bet for staying competitive. MAP and FMD have been highly successful, and increasing investment in these programs will grow the U.S. agriculture industry, create jobs, and ultimately strengthen the U.S. economy.”

Funding for MAP and FMD has not kept pace with inflation, administrative costs, the growth of the global marketplace, or the investments other countries have made in their own export promotion. The FMD program could also lose its baseline funding when the farm bill expires in 2018. The CREAATE Act would gradually increase MAP funding from \$200 million to \$400 million per year and FMD funding from \$34.5 million to \$69 million per year, over the next five years.

The Michigan Corn Growers Association (MCGA) is a grassroots organization of grower members dedicated to increasing the profitability of corn production. The MCGA is the only organization in Michigan that works solely on behalf of the state’s corn growers for pro-

agriculture legislation. The MCGA works to ensure that corn growers' voices are heard at the local, state and national levels. Find out more online at www.micorn.org.

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