

Michigan Environmental Council's Legislative Updates for the GHHI meeting 9/18/14

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update from Lansing. I am sorry I cannot be there in person today.

Elections in November will determine who is elected in the House, Senate and Governor's office. After these important elections, we can expect to wait until the end of January or even early February for committee assignments (policy and budget committees). Leadership elections in the House and Senate Chambers and new member preferences will all be taken into account in placements. Until we know who decision makers will be, we will have to be patient.

This is not to say we should be taking a holiday until the New Year! It is critical to reach out to your members and potential legislative members now back at home in your voting district. Do this now, before they are inundated with setting up their legislative offices, lobby group visits, and other causes. Leave your contact information and introduce yourself as a "resource" on this issue of lead and healthy homes and encourage them to put your name in the file and contact you often.

Another tidbit to remember is all legislation not enacted (passed into law) when the Legislature adjourns (Dec. 2014) will be erased and must be resubmitted for consideration in 2015. For example SB 313 (Robertson) on rental inspections & HB 4345 (Stallworth) on increased lead testing for kids will be impacted.

The MIALSH coalition is planning a celebration this fall to get media attention, some kudos to policy makers and to help get the word out to potential new applicants about the \$1.75 million in general fund this fiscal year for lead abatements. We are contemplating a ribbon cutting and hopefully a family will step forward to talk about how the lead program has helped their child. Clear Corps had a similar celebration we could model. We are looking at a November event and will keep everyone posted.

The MILASH coalition is also planning to compile a packet of info on lead to new legislators and possibly returning members for education and outreach. What these packets will be comprised of is still under development, but will be along the lines of legislative packets we have handed on past legislative education days. We plan to get packets out after the November elections when membership is settled.

Thank you,

Tina Reynolds