

**Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses**

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. Name: Richard Bowman

2. Organization you represent:  
The Nature Conservancy

3. Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee: Resume Attached

4. Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:  
Director of Government Relations  
Michigan Operating Unit

**PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.**

**Richard Bowman**  
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Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
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## **Education**

Bachelor of Science, Food Systems Management and Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Michigan State University, June, 1988  
Graduate Fellow, Michigan Political Leadership Program, June 1993

## **Work Experience:**

**Director of Government Relations** October 2, 2006 to present  
The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Chapter, 101 East Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906  
Develop and manage state and federal advocacy, outreach and communication program with the Michigan Legislature, Governor, Congressional Delegation and federal and state agencies. Lead the creation of Great Lakes Compact State and Provincial Water Mangers Toolkit and training program. Develop concepts and oversee staff and contractors in the creation of policy whitepapers, briefing documents and state and federal budget analysis. Serve as member of Conservation leadership team and develop, review and edit conservation business plans, establish objectives and metrics, create scorecards and progress reporting mechanisms, marketing and communications materials and press releases for conservation operations activities. Serve as organizational spokesperson to media and public on issues of governance and policy in Michigan and the Great Lakes and prepare talking points for state director, board chair and trustees. Prepare and deliver testimony to state legislative and congressional committees. Chaired TNC RCPP rules workgroup and served on 2007 and 2012 Farm Bill workgroups, North American Agriculture and Global Freshwater Teams and ad hoc US Government Relations workgroups. Supervise and train staff, trustees and volunteers on interactions with elected officials and media.

**Executive Director** May 16, 2000 to October 1, 2006  
Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 29, Birmingham, MI 48012-0029  
Serve as Chief Executive and Operating Officer for 7500 member statewide conservation organization. Coordinate development and management of strategic plan and policy agenda, annual operating budget, and performance outcomes. Coordinate and execute government relations program, marketing and outreach, publication of organizations' quarterly magazine, volunteer leader development, stakeholder communications and fundraising activities. Participate as member of finance and audit committee. Represent organization at statewide and national events and meetings. Organize and conduct training for volunteers and staff. Provide organizational consulting services, event and resource improvement project planning assistance to 24 local chapters. Serve as primary spokesperson with elected officials and media and liaison to other conservation organizations and donors.

**Executive Director** February 15, 1998 to May 16, 2000  
West Grand Development Corporation, 625 Broadway NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
Responsible for the startup and overall administration of a new nonprofit Community Development Corporation (CDC) focused on neighborhood revitalization and rehabilitation of single family low and moderate income housing. Duties include day to day management of organization, selection, development and direction of staff, project finance, negotiation of acquisition and disposition of real estate. Develop annual operating and individual development project budgets. Coordinate accounting, audit, program and project development, and marketing of completed projects. Determine organizational development, technical assistance (TA) and staff training needs. Recruit and train new Board Members, including facilitation of board visioning process.

**Executive Director/Community Organizer** May 12, 1997 to February 15, 1998  
Neighbors of Belknap Lookout, Inc. P.O. Box 3138, Grand Rapids, MI 49501  
Responsible for the overall management of not for profit neighborhood association, including staff, intern, and volunteer supervision, contract negotiation and execution, program development, grant preparation and administration and community outreach. Develop and administer HUD Community Development Block Grants, annual operating and project budgets and coordinate fiscal management activities. Developed and coordinate multi-neighborhood community gardening project. Prepare press releases and serve as association spokesperson.

**Research Assistant** (guest contract position) April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1998  
Annis Water Resources Institute, 118 Padnos Hall, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI 49401  
Authored and administered grant from USDA sustainable agriculture professional development program to create and facilitate classroom programs and in field training for Extension and USDA natural resource field staff in

surface water quality assessment utilizing stream macro invertebrates as indicator species, and techniques for the assessment and organization of community resources to facilitate improved surface water quality.

**Regional Representative**

June 25, 1991 to November 3, 1995

Michigan Farm Bureau, Organization Department, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48909

Served as staff consultant to 6 County Farm Bureaus in West Michigan. Provide direction to county boards on operations, staffing, budgeting, fiscal and asset management, policy development and implementation, marketing, membership recruitment and retention and outreach programs. Developed and executed training programs for county staff and volunteers. Facilitated volunteer leadership in visioning and strategic planning processes.

**Crops Manager**

September 1, 1989 to June 15, 1991

Omega Farms, 4900 S. M-52, Williamston, MI 48895

Managed a 3000 acre farm producing field crops and forestry products, including hiring, training and supervision of full time and seasonal employees, purchasing of inputs and equipment, marketing of products and resource improvement projects. Assured compliance with federal conservation programs. Developed first on farm sustainable agriculture research plots with Michigan State University C. S. Mott Chair in Sustainable Agriculture.

**Store Manager**

June 13, 1988 to August 15, 1989

Bormans, Inc., 18719 Borman Ave, Detroit, MI 48232

Managed a Farmer Jack Supermarket. Hired, trained and supervised 150 unionized employees. Responded to customer concerns. Developed merchandising plans, ordered stock and managed inventory levels.

**Soil Conservationist Trainee**

June 15, 1987 to September 18, 1987

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1767 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867

Assisted producers with no-till techniques, drafting of farm conservation plans and resource protection strategies.

**Related Activities:**

Gubernatorial Appointee, Blue Ribbon Commission on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, August, 2011- 2012

Gubernatorial Appointee, Michigan Groundwater Advisory Council, March, 2006 – December 2008

Member, Michigan Water Cabinet, June, 2013 to present

Collaborator, Michigan State University/City of Detroit MetroFood Urban Farming Initiative, July 2012

MDEQ Director Appointee, Director's Advisory Council, December 2014-present

MDNR Director Appointee, Michigan Timber Advisory Council, November, 2011- present

MDNR Director Appointee, State Land Ownership Advisory Committee, December 2012 –December 2014

MDEQ Director Appointee, Clean Water Revolving Fund Advisory Committee, February, 2011 – January 2012

Appointed member, Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Advisory Committee, Nov. 2006-present

Advisory Committee Member, Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Maritime Initiative, Conference of Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, June 2014

Deans Advisory Board Member, Michigan Technological University School of Forestry, March 2013-present

Invited Participant, Founding meeting, National Ecosystem Services Partnership, USEPA/USDA/

National Geographic Society, Oct 2009

Invited Participant, National Summit on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, University of Michigan, April 2007

Recipient, 2004 Region 9 US Forest Service "Rise to the Future Award" for innovative aquatic habitat partnership

Co-Author, "Great Lakes Water Managers Toolkit", Council of Great Lakes Governors, January 2010

Co-Author, "The Role of Science in Informing Water Policy", MSU Water Fellows, October 2005

Presenter, World Water Forum, Stockholm, Sweden, September 2013

Presenter, American Water Resources Association Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, November 2011

Presenter, Great Lakes Water Conservation Summit, Madison, WI, September 2010

Panelist/Presenter, MNDR/MDEQ/MDARD Staff Leadership Development Program, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2015

Invited Presenter and Participant, MSU Endowed Professors of Agriculture, Statewide Animal Waste

Management Strategic Planning Retreat, August 1994

Invited Presenter, Governors Statewide Farmland and Open Space Preservation Task Force, July, 1994

Founding collaborator, Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems project, 1994, Board member, 2006/2008

Leader, Co-leader and/or participant of numerous ad-hoc task groups on Policy and Governance, 2000 to present

**Additional Education & Professional Development**

Fellow, Michigan State University Michigan Water Fellows Program, January, 2005

Participant, "Conservation Funding Strategies", Institute for Conservation Leadership, Litchfield, CT, Oct. 2000

Participant, "1<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Food Systems Conference, Los Angeles, CA, October 1998

Participant, "Legal Considerations for Private-Nonprofit Joint Ventures", LISC, Detroit, MI November, 1998