

Subject: Gary McDowell Week in Review
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The Week in Review provides information that affects not only the communities I represent, but also information of interest for families throughout the state. As your State Representative, it is my goal to keep you informed about legislative issues and current events. I hope you find the Week in Review interesting and informative. As always, please feel free to address any concerns you may have by calling my office, writing a letter or sending an e-mail.

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McDowell Recognized for Championing Public Health

Rep. McDowell has been recognized by the Michigan Department of Community Health as a 2007 Public Policy Champion. The Public Policy Champion awards are given to legislators who have either introduced bills to address gaps in the state's safety net, or have been longtime advocates of programs that are crucial to maintaining good public health.

"I am very pleased and honored to receive this award," McDowell said. "The health and well-being of residents in the Upper Peninsula and northern Michigan is a top priority of mine. I will continue to work hard to make sure that every Michigan resident has access to affordable, quality health care."

McDowell has long been a proponent of improving public health. He is currently the Chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee in charge of community health, and has served on the War Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for the past 20 years. McDowell has also served on the Emergency 911 Central Dispatch Board and as a volunteer with Rudyard Township EMT.

In legislative action ...

House votes to attack economics of trash trade -- In a move to slam the brakes on trash imports from Canada and other states, Rep. McDowell announced that the House passed legislation that will attack the economics of the trash trade by increasing the state's paltry dumping charge from 21 cents to \$7.50 per ton. Michigan's dumping charge will now be the highest in the region, forcing Canada and other states to dump their trash elsewhere.

"Every year, we get more trash from Canada and other states," said McDowell, whose district includes the Dafer Landfill and the International Bridge, the northernmost entry point for trash into Michigan. "The problem is getting worse, not better. Michigan is a beautiful state, and a great place to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors. This legislation will make sure it stays that way."

According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Canada and other states dumped 6.3 million tons of trash in our state in 2006, up from 6.2 million tons in 2005. Canadian and out-of-state trash now accounts for more than 30 percent of total waste landfilled in Michigan. In 1996, Canada and other states dumped 1.9 million tons of trash, about 13 percent of trash in Michigan.