

Legislative Spotlight: State Representative Triston Cole (R-MI 105)

This is the latest in a monthly series of features on Michigan's legislative leaders, as we take a look at their district, their relationship with our industry and their thoughts on our homestate energy production. These legislative spotlights will be archived in the news section of the MOGA webpage and featured in MOGA's bi-weekly newsletter as well as in Michigan Oil & Gas News Monthly Report Editions.

by Mike Cornelius
MOGA Outreach Coordinator

Majority Floor Leader, State Representative Triston Cole, has served Michigan's 105th House District since the beginning of 2015 and is now in his final term.

The state's 105th District encompasses **Antrim, Charlevoix, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Otsego counties.**

As the Majority Floor Leader, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the House floor activities and helps decide which proposals are considered by legislators. In addition to his leadership role, Cole is vice chair of the Government Operations Committee and serves on the House Fiscal Governing Committee, and Transportation Committees.

He also chairs the House's Northern Caucus, a collection of legislative leaders from northern Michigan. The House's top leaders, the Speaker of the House, Representative Lee Chatfield and Speaker Pro-Tempore, Representative Jason Wentworth are also members of the Northern Caucus.

Since his first term, the Representative has been a great ally for the industry. In 2015, the Representative was part of a panel of key legislators that spoke to MOGA members about their views on our state's natural resources, including oil and gas development, and their importance to the state.

We encourage you to reach out to the featured elected officials to thank them for supporting Michigan's oil and gas industry and to share the great work we do in their district.

MOGA has county-by-county fact sheets detailing the positive impact our industry has in every county of the state for your use. You can find these online at Michiganoilandgas.org or contact Michael at mcornelius@michiganoilandgas.org for more fact sheets.

It's never a bad time to reach out to your elected officials and tell them about the work you do in their district, the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund projects the industry contributes to in their area, or the importance of Michigan's critical energy infrastructure, like Line 5, to our businesses and our state.



MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRISTON COLE (R-MI 105), at right in photo above, and then U.S. House of Representatives candidate Gen. Jack Bergman (center), who is currently serving his second term representing Michigan's 1st Congressional District, are shown being welcomed to the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting of MOGA by (left to right): MOGA President Erin McDonough, MOGA 2016 Chairman Jeff Cook and MOGA 2016 Vice Chairman Joel Myler.

"The oil and gas industry is undervalued and under-appreciated across Michigan. In many communities it is the backbone of the local economy. Most people do not realize it is an industry made up of many small family owned businesses that care and invest locally," Cole stated recently.

The then first term Rep. Triston Cole joined Sen. Wayne Schmidt in welcoming everyone to the heart of the 'patch

and spoke on the impact of the industry on local economies and how members of MOGA can partner with legislators to ensure that crude oil and natural gas continue to be cornerstones of Michigan's successful energy future. Cole suggested that one way to do so is to work proactively to build relationships with elected officials — before their help is needed.

Over his legislative tenure, he's hosted dinners with the Northern Caucus and industry leaders, attended and spoken at

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Michigan Oil and Gas Industry Economic Impact: Michigan House District 105

County	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects	MNRTF Grants	Total Jobs (Direct and Induced)	Local Property Taxes Paid	Private Royalty Payments (2014)	All-Time Crude Oil Prod. (in 42 gal. bbl)	All-Time Nat. Gas Prod. (in Mcf)
MI 105	77	\$35,081,375	3,280	\$6,551,000	\$72,862,000	117,111,516	3,324,443,501
Antrim	29	\$14,113,657	406	\$961,000	\$15,341,000	2,865,648	429,599,539
Charlevoix	26	\$11,247,180	164	\$268,000	\$802,000	N/A	25,547,497
Montmorency	7	\$672,278	266	\$529,000	\$20,816,000	2,258,857	1,062,863,760
Oscoda	N/A	N/A	11	\$460,000	\$4,131,000	1,800,331	176,689,827
Otsego	15	\$9,048,260	2,433	\$4,333,000	\$31,772,000	110,186,680	1,629,742,878

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MOGA Member Meetings, supported oil and gas and Michigan jobs through legislation to protect Michigan's critical energy infrastructure, and been instrumental in encouraging fellow legislators to learn about our industry.

"Oil and gas activity helps contribute to energy security and keeps costs at a manageable level. I appreciate the communication and involvement of folks in the industry who keep me well informed and are always a great resource during my time in office," Cole said.

Given the busy holiday season coming up, the Representative does not currently have any local coffee hours scheduled but always welcomes calls and emails to the office.

We encourage you to reach out to Representative Cole by email at TristonCole@house.mi.gov or by phone at 517-373-0829 to thank him for supporting Michigan's oil and gas industry and share the great work we do in his district.

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