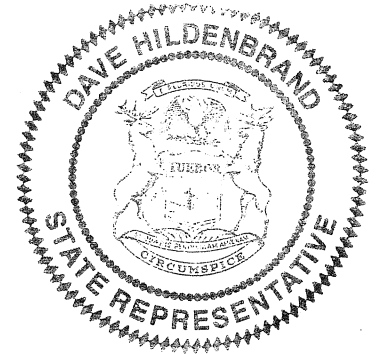




**BUSINESS LEADERS FOR  
MICHIGAN**

600 Renaissance Center, Suite 1760, Detroit, MI 48243 313.259.5400



October 6, 2009

The Honorable Dave Hildenbrand  
Republican Floor Leader  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Hildenbrand:

On behalf of the members of Business Leaders for Michigan, I am writing to encourage you and your colleagues to use this opportunity to make progress toward the fundamental, structural changes needed to turn Michigan around.

It was disappointing that adoption of the FY 2009-10 budget did not occur on time. It is critical to the future of our state that lawmakers prepare a reasoned budget that is rooted in the reality of Michigan's reduced revenues, takes the long view, and is aimed at moving Michigan forward toward new economic strength. The crisis Michigan faces demands fundamental change and you have an opportunity to make this change.

As you work to finalize the budget, we strongly encourage you to adopt the budget agreement reached by Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and House Speaker Andy Dillon. This plan moves Michigan in the right direction, toward being a state in which business can and will invest with confidence. In doing so, we discourage the adoption of any revenue enhancements or tax increases, including closure of "tax loopholes," to solve the budget deficit. Any tax increase would be another temporary solution to the long-term structural budget problems we face and would continue to prevent Michigan's economic revival.

We believe there are three key steps elected leaders should take to regain the confidence of voters:

1. Pass a balanced budget that doesn't increase the overall tax burden on Michigan taxpayers;
2. Adopt meaningful reforms to avoid future annual budget crises; and
3. Significantly reform and reduce Michigan's business tax to start re-growing our economy.

We recognize the difficulty in making the tough choices required. But they are necessary. Michigan is suffering from the negative national media attention focused on our dire and prolonged economic condition, and seeming inability to chart a course for recovery. Now is the time for us to set a new course — one that enables Michigan to attract businesses, growth and much needed jobs.

If you have any questions about our proposed recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Doug Rothwell  
President & CEO

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