

Michigan Business Groups Applaud Leadership By Senate Republicans in Making 2010 the Year of Government Reform

Statewide business and trade organizations from around the state today applauded the leadership displayed by Senate Republicans in their announcement of 10 bold reforms that could trim state spending by more than \$2 billion. Taxpayers are demanding that elected officials be good stewards of their money and Senate Republicans are living up to that expectation by putting forth a comprehensive plan that can facilitate passage of a balanced budget without increasing taxes.

"Michigan is facing unprecedented economic challenges and enacting these reforms is exactly what Michigan needs to reduce cost barriers and be competitive in the global economy," said Mike Johnston Vice President of Government Affairs for the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

In September, statewide business and trade organizations released a list of 19 suggested reforms the Michigan Legislature should undertake in an effort to combat chronic structural budget deficits. "We have been meeting regularly with legislators in both chambers and both parties to urge them to reform and revitalize Michigan; these are exactly the kind of reforms we support and legislators have indicated they would like to see enacted," said Bill Martin, CEO of the Michigan Association of Realtors.

Rob Fowler, President and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan, added, "Business owners large and small are making tough decisions to remain competitive in a down economy; we are glad to see Senate Republicans are stepping up to the plate to force the state to live within its means."

"The Senate's bold agenda of reform demonstrates that tax increases are not necessary and that the path to job creation and a revitalized economy is making government smaller and more cost efficient," said Jim Holcomb, Vice President of Business Advocacy and Associate General Counsel for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the coalition look forward to working the legislators on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to enact cost-saving reforms that will move Michigan forward.

Coalition members include:

Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Lansing Regional Chamber
Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan
Kalamazoo Regional Chamber
Michigan Association of Home Builders
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Michigan Restaurant Association
National Federal of Independent Business
Michigan Association of Realtors
Michigan Distributors & Vendors Association
Small Business Association of Michigan
Michigan Grocers Association
Michigan Retailers Association
Michigan Bankers Association
Michigan Business & Professional Association
Michigan Association of Insurance Agents

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