



April 23, 2012

The Honorable Jack Brandenburg
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Brandenburg,

I am writing to strongly support Senate Bills 1065-1072. The Detroit Regional Chamber has over 20,000 members and affiliates in 10 counties employing 750,000 Michigan citizens. Our members range from sole proprietors to Fortune 500 companies. Our members have spoken loud and clear that elimination of the Personal Property Tax is a top priority. This was most recently re-affirmed in 2011, when the Chamber Board of Directors stated that elimination of the Personal Property Tax should not be overlooked as policy makers considered the sweeping changes to Michigan's tax code that made our general business tax competitive with surrounding states. I am encouraged to see that the Michigan Legislature intends to finish the job and make Michigan one of the top states in the nation for job creation.

I recognize that the PPT provides a needed source of revenue for local governments that provide the services that businesses need to succeed. I believe that the model for maintaining our communities laid out in these bills provides the opportunity for local units of government to provide needed services for businesses and residents alike, while continuing to promote cost saving reforms and service sharing that hardworking taxpayers demand. While the business community supports the mechanism laid out to replace revenue, make no mistake, we do not wish to see revenue generated by a statutory tax replaced by a constitutional guarantee that ties the hands of future legislators and lacks accountability for local government. On behalf of the Chamber, I support efforts that are underway to reward best practices and encourage service sharing in local units of government.

Finally, we believe the consequences of the legislation you are contemplating are overwhelmingly positive. Removal of the burden of the PPT will allow businesses in metropolitan Detroit and around the state to invest in new equipment that will lead to the creation of high paying jobs and end the punitive taxation of businesses that have been investing for the last ten years. We applaud the effort to speak boldly that Michigan is open for business. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brad Williams
Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

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