

22 February 2012

Senator Tom Casperson
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: SBs 909-12, Creation of a Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Authority

Dear Senator Casperson:

I write with regard to the above noted bills, and to extend our appreciation for your leadership on this matter. The Troy Chamber believes strongly in the potential for this legislation to contribute to the long term economic health of Southeast Michigan, and we base this position on the following rationale.

The Michigan Municipal League has identified the eight essential assets of twenty first century communities, and transit is included among them. A transit system that is robust with integrated modality, and the highest quality infrastructure of all forms of transportation, has the capacity to create jobs, enhance the tax base, transport employees to and from the workplace, and more.

A second quality shared by remarkable regions throughout the United States is a collaborative approach to problem solving and solution identification. We believe a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will effectively lay the ground work for such a culture to take hold, and that the outcomes will be significant.

The Troy Chamber has long been an advocate for fiscally responsible investment in job creating infrastructure, which was manifested in its recent success with the Troy Transit Center. We see this center as a cog in a regional system, with the benefits flowing both ways. With an RTA, a regional transportation system is more fertile, and the center itself is rendered even more viable.

We believe in our Detroit, and we want it to be the highly successful anchor of a vital, thriving region. With a regional approach to building out a complete transportation system, that success is within reach. We pledge to support the creation of an RTA in any way we can, and the subsequent execution of it.

Let's march forward as a region. Let's get it done. Let's put the structural solution in place that will enable the implementation of jobs creating infrastructure. Let's together realize the economic success that awaits.

Sincerely,

Michele Hodges
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