GRAND RAPIDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

To: Members of the Senate Infrastructure Modernization Committee

From: Joshua Lunger, Public Policy Coordinator

Subject: Support for Transportation Funding Bills (House Bills 4630, 5459, 5477, 5493)

Date: May 20, 2014

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and our 2,700 members, we urge you to support a comprehensive solution to address Michigan's failing infrastructure.

We share the belief that we must focus on efficiency, better quality and improved fairness while pushing for increased investment.

Immediate action saves money and sets the stage for growth. To continue our legacy of a state built upon the manufacturing, agriculture and tourism industries, we need to preserve our transportation network. Strong connections increase the competitiveness of our job creators and allow the efficient movement of goods and people.

This plan to invest $500 million more in roads is a great foundation, but not the ultimate solution. The total amount needed to maintain current infrastructure assets is closer to $2 billion.

This issue has been studied into the ground and the time to act is now. We want to be a state known for our continued reinvention, core industries and our many tourist destinations, not a state identified by an infamous pothole season.

Again, we strongly urge you to build upon the House transportation funding package and create a long-term fix for Michigan's roads and bridges.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lunger
Public Policy Coordinator