

# RESTARTING MICHIGAN

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY AGENDA



**LIABILITY  
PROTECTIONS**

**TAXPAYER  
PROTECTION  
AND RELIEF**

**REGULATORY  
ASSISTANCE**

**INVEST IN  
MICHIGAN**

## Liability Protections

**Protect Employers Committed to Keeping Their Employees and Workplaces Safe** – Protect employers from liability, including adverse employment actions, if they rely upon state and federal guidance for re-opening and implementing safety protocols.

**Exposure Lawsuits** – Avoid a crippling surge of COVID-19 lawsuits by limiting the ability of plaintiffs’ attorneys to sue on behalf of individuals who did not develop COVID-19, were asymptomatic or simply experienced common flu-like symptoms. Without adequate protections in place, these lawsuits will place further strain on businesses and the economy, clog the courts and deter some businesses from reopening.

**Good Samaritan Liability Protections** – Michigan’s Good Samaritan laws should be expanded to provide retroactive and prospective product liability protection to companies designing, modifying, manufacturing, selling, distributing and/or donating products--including PPE, drugs, ventilators, hand sanitizers, soaps and other key cleaning supplies--in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The law should also be extended to businesses that provide property or services to aid in the COVID-19 response, such as hotels or other facilities that provide space to treat patients or house emergency personnel.

## Taxpayer Protection & Relief

**Unemployment Insurance (UI) Relief** - Codify the Governor’s Executive Order prohibiting UI benefits paid due to the COVID-19 emergency from counting against an employer’s experience rating for unemployment tax calculations.

**Defer Sales, Use and Withholding (SUW) Taxes** - Require SUW tax payments that were due during the months COVID-19 affected a business’ operations to be deferred, penalty and interest free, until December 31, 2020. This relief should include accelerated filers.

**Extend Property Tax Deadline and Ensure Appeal Rights** - The May 31 property tax deadline should be extended by 60 days. Consideration should be given to allow severely distressed businesses to defer their summer property taxes, interest and penalty free, to the due date of the winter levy. Taxpayer appeals rights MUST be maintained.

**Allow for Tax Payment Plans** - Due to COVID-19, many Michigan businesses are struggling to keep their businesses open and upcoming tax payments could push them over the edge. These especially hard-hit businesses should be allowed to enter into a special payment agreement with the Department of Treasury to establish a payment plan to meet their obligations and avoid penalty and/or interest.

## Regulatory Assistance

**Foster Regulatory Compliance** - Ensure all regulatory agencies are providing compliance flexibility to assist businesses as they continue to deal with COVID-19.

**Time Out on Unnecessary New Rules** - As we work together to recover from COVID-19, state government should hit the pause button on new and non-essential government rules and regulations through December 31, 2020.

**Put Construction Trades to Work by Building the Great Lakes Tunnel** - Keep the permitting process on track so we can start to build the Great Lakes Tunnel in 2021.

## Smart Budgeting

**Fiscal Responsibility** - Restrain state spending and avoid tax increases on hardworking Michiganders.

## Invest in Michigan

- ✓ Support Travel And Tourism by Funding the Pure Michigan Campaign.
- ✓ Prioritize Workforce Development by Funding the GoingPro Training Fund.
- ✓ Enact The 'Good Jobs for Michigan' Program (SB 492).
- ✓ Encourage Investment in Michigan by Passing R&D Credits (SB 378).
- ✓ Improve Access to Government by Investing in Technology Upgrades.
- ✓ Spur Economic Growth by Eliminating Negative Tax Treatment for Capital Investments.

### For More Information Contact:



Wendy Block  
Vice President, Business Advocacy  
& Member Engagement  
(517) 371-7678  
[wblock@michamber.com](mailto:wblock@michamber.com)

Dan Papineau  
Director of Tax Policy &  
Regulatory Affairs  
(517) 371-7669  
[dpapineau@michamber.com](mailto:dpapineau@michamber.com)