



July 5, 2023

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

Michigan has made great strides in attracting new transformational investments, resulting in \$16 billion in new investment and over 16,000 new jobs for Michigan. These efforts recognize and address the competitive nature of the battle between states for economic growth. Thank you for your leadership in attracting these new investments.

Future success in economic growth depends upon a game plan that retains existing job providers and builds on that base to attract new investment from existing companies and new companies from outside Michigan choosing to locate here. This growth will be achieved through the fundamentals of a favorable business climate, not just the results of targeted incentives. Companies need to know they can compete from a Michigan location.

This business climate is rooted in perception and how a state positions itself for new economic investment. Michigan carries a reputation for heavy regulatory burdens. Some of that is earned, and some of that is simply legacy reputation.

Michigan's Administrative Procedures Act communicates a message that says Michigan will be competitive when it comes to the cost of doing business here. This is especially important because other states closely align with federal regulations. All states must follow federal regulations, which sets a balance for interstate competitiveness. Michigan's law allows regulations to exceed federal standard to be more protective of human health and the environment when the Director of EGLE determines with clear and convincing evidence that Michigan must be more protective, given our proximity to the Great Lakes and our long-standing ethic for environmental protection. The current law has not blocked any additional regulations for well-reasoned new regulations since its enactment in 2018.

The business climate matters, and we believe the current "no stricter than federal policy" sends the right message to prospective new job providers. Specifically, Michigan intends to be

competitive from a regulatory perspective, and if we consider exceeding federal standards we will thoroughly consider impacts on the state's competitiveness.

By contrast, Senate Bill 14, which would repeal the current competitive statement, sends the opposite message. SB 14 states to investors and existing businesses that we do not care about the cost of doing business in Michigan. If a job provider comes to our state, they will need to anticipate that it will be more expensive to operate here.

As a business community representing job providers in every sector of the Michigan economy, we ask you to protect Michigan's business climate. Protect the current law which allows a thoughtful and deliberative conversation about the cost of additional regulation compared to other states. **We ask you to veto SB 14.**

We look forward to continuing to work with you to grow good-paying jobs while protecting human health and the environment.

Respectfully,

Michigan Manufacturers Association  
Grand Rapids Chamber  
Michigan Chamber of Commerce  
Detroit Regional Chamber  
Small Business Association of Michigan  
Business Leaders for Michigan

cc: Speaker Joe Tate  
Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks  
Chairman Sean McCann