GREAT LAKES GROWTH

OUR SHARED FUTURE DEPENDS ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Legislature's Debilitating Economic Agenda Unites Michigan's Job Creators in New Great Lakes Growth Coalition

Sweeping mandates on paid leave and energy, coupled with the elimination of workers' independent contractor flexibility and an unleashing of 1,800 new regulatory schemes, pose major threat to Michigan's economic and population growth

LANSING, Mich. – As some in the Michigan Legislature rush to enact dangerous economic proposals meant to appeal to national and state political allies in advance of the 2024 elections, a new, long-term economic growth coalition called Great Lakes Growth (GLG) was announced today.

The alarming pace of anti-growth policy proposals now before the legislature brought key business leaders together under the GLG umbrella to create a unified and clear voice for Michigan's job providers and workers to make Michigan a flourishing state with a growing economy and population.

"Michigan's path to growth is at grave risk with the multitude of risky economic proposals proposed in Lansing," said **Wendy Block, Senior Vice President of Business Advocacy for the Michigan Chamber**. "Challenges such as rising inflation and loss of population already have Michigan on the wrong track and workers agree. Surveys show that nearly 75% of Michigan residents felt the state's economy is either stagnant or getting worse. There is an urgent need for a unified voice on key issues that jeopardize employers and employees alike and our state's ability to compete, grow and thrive. That's why we are coming together as the Great Lakes Growth coalition."

"State leaders have proposed a litany of tax-increasing, cost-raising, job-killing, anti-worker's choice economic proposals that must be altered or stopped," said **Josh Lunger, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Grand Rapids Chamber**. "Michigan's economy will not grow with expensive one-size-fits-all government mandates on job providers, unaffordable and inconsistent energy supplies, the elimination of workforce flexibility that workers and job creators depend on in a strained labor market, or a complex web of up to 1,800 different sets of regulations. These bills will hurt the very people they claim to help – especially small businesses and Michiganders living paycheck-to-paycheck."

"Michigan's economy is not going to thrive by rolling back the clock on modernizing reforms of the last decade, imposing new costs on employers or creating complicated work rules and regulatory environment," said **Brad Williams, Vice President of Government Relations for the Detroit Regional Chamber.**

"We all have shared concerns about where this Legislature is taking the state," said **Mike Johnston, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs & Workforce Development for the Michigan Manufacturers Association**. "These polices are going to harm small manufacturers, make us less able to bring new manufacturers to the state, and create barriers on those businesses currently here from expanding. We can't go down this path. So, now we come together with an amplified voice to fight for the future of the Great Lakes State."

Who We Are

The GLG Coalition is led by Michigan's leading pro-growth business organizations and supported by countless additional groups, businesses and individuals under four specific issue-based coalitions. GLG's founding members include the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Detroit Regional Chamber and Grand Rapids Chamber.

Our Initial Focus Areas

GLG has identified four economic proposals that are so dangerous to Michigan's economic growth potential that formal coalitions have been formed to stop them:

LIMITED WORKPLACE MANDATES
United Against Workplace Mandates Coalition

Michigan employers compete worldwide for talent and strive to provide leading edge, competitive benefits. The so-called family and medical paid leave program amount to **a new $1 to $1.5 billion-plus annual payroll tax on every worker and business**. This policy would create a massive new state bureaucracy, putting the government in charge of paid-time off (PTO claims) and hurting those it claims to help, especially small businesses and Michiganders living paycheck-to-paycheck. Learn more: United Against Benefit Mandates Coalition

AFFORDABLE ENERGY
Coalition for Clean, Affordable and Reliable Energy

A clean energy future is vitally important, but we must be realistic in how we get there, balancing clean energy goals with the need for safe, reliable and affordable energy. Unrealistic mandates increase costs and risk power shortages hurting our small businesses, families and economy, reversing progress we've achieved in recent years. Learn more: Coalition for Clean, Affordable and Reliable Energy

CAREER FREEDOM
Coalition for Career Freedom

Michigan residents are hard-working and determined. Workers should have the freedom provided by our evolving, modern gig economy to shape the careers and income that best helps them pursue their dreams. But the ability of workers to choose independent contractor work is threatened by pending legislation. Learn more: Coalition for Career Freedom

LOCAL ECONOMIC REGULATIONS
MI Employment Certainty Coalition

Employees and employers alike are looking for certainty. Yet pending legislation would create more uncertainty by unleashing Michigan's 1,800 local units of government to enact their own laws governing workplaces across Michigan. Creating a complex web of regulations governing private employers' relations with their employees will create confusion and a bureaucratic, red-tape nightmare for job providers -- and employees. Learn more: MI Employment Certainty Coalition

Sign Up and Learn More Today!

To learn more about the principles of the Great Lakes Growth Coalition and how Michigan can be a prosperous state, visit www.greatlakesgrowth.com today.

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