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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chamber Coalition Announces 2007-2008 Legislative Priorities

The West Michigan Chamber Coalition (WMCC), which includes The Chamber – Grand Haven/Spring Lake/Ferrysburg, Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon Area Chambers of Commerce, is happy to announce that each Chamber's Board of Directors have endorsed the following legislative priorities for 2007-2008.

Education

- Modify state rules and regulations to reduce barriers and create incentives that encourage the sharing of services and consolidation of public schools,
- Support competitive bidding for public school employee's health care insurance premiums,
- Move public school employees out of a defined benefit to a defined contribution style retirement plan,
- Support the creation of the Consensus Principles for Education and Workforce Development.

Environment

- Support air quality attainment status for West Michigan and non-attainment re-designation,
- Advocate for fair regulations / permit requirements on industry,
- Support efforts to prevent invasive species in our Great Lakes,
- Continue to support the use of Brownfield incentives to help encourage redevelopment of contaminated properties,
- Support efforts to encourage or increase recycling opportunities in Michigan.

Healthcare

- Continue to promote and advocate for the Consensus Principles for Health Care Delivery and Consensus Principles for Behavioral Health Delivery,
- Limit cost-shifting.

Public Policy

- Promote policies that lead to economic growth in West Michigan,
- Continue to advocate for infrastructure funding to meet the demands of the growing West Michigan region,
- Encourage continued viability of downtowns and not desert existing infrastructure,
- Advocate for reforming term limits in Michigan,

- Modify state rules and regulations to reduce barriers and create incentives that encourage the sharing of services and consolidation of local governments.

Taxes

- Advocate for the Michigan Business Activities (MBAT) Plan.

"Identifying shared business issues of interest charts the WMCC's direction for the next two years. Each chamber is engaged on various levels and ways throughout the region, but together our voice in Lansing is amplified with the WMCC's support on issues of regional importance," says Jared Rodriguez Vice President of Public Policy & Government Affairs for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce.

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About the West Michigan Chamber Coalition:

The West Michigan Chamber Coalition is comprised of The Chamber -Grand Haven/Spring Lake/Ferrysburg, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Holland Area Chamber of Commerce and Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber Coalition joined forces in 2005 to advocate on behalf of West Michigan businesses and speaks with the voice of over 6,000 business members with nearly 250,000 employees.