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NEWS

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Chamber Coalition Supports Michigan Business Activities Tax Plan

The West Michigan Chamber Coalition (WMCC), which includes the Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon Chambers of Commerce, has been studying the Michigan Business Activities Tax (MBAT) plan for the past three months. We are happy to announce that each Chamber's Board of Directors have endorsed the core concepts and principles outlined in the plan.

"This was a lengthy process. Each Chamber's government affairs committee gave our proposal its due diligence and the results have been extremely positive," says Jared Rodriguez Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our voice in Lansing is amplified with the WMCC's support of the MBAT plan. The Coalition represents more than 6,000 job providers and 250,000+ employees throughout the region."

The MBAT plan advocates for the following key concepts:

- Broaden the tax base, providing a fair replacement of the Single Business Tax and Personal Property Tax;
- Create a tax that is simple to administer and hard to circumvent;
- Incorporate a single low tax rate with an overall ten-percent net tax reduction;
- Provide a tax deduction for tangible personal property or raw materials;
- Maintain the integrity of previously granted economic development incentives, while abolishing future credits and moving toward a cash grant system;
- Hold local units of government harmless for personal property tax repeal or relief; and
- Control state spending through reforms to the Medicaid system, reduce barriers and create incentives for consolidation and sharing of services within governments and school districts.

The WMCC is engaged in the SBT replacement debate and it is expected that the legislature will taking action soon. The MBAT can be viewed online at <http://www.grandrapids.org/advocacy/>.

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About the West Michigan Chamber Coalition:

The West Michigan Chamber Coalition is comprised of the Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce, 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.