

**No. 4**  
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**JOURNAL**  
**OF THE**  
**House of Representatives**  
**96th Legislature**  
**REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

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House Chamber, Lansing, Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

6:00 p.m.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The roll was called by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, who announced that a quorum was present.

Agema—present	Gilbert—present	Lipton—present	Pscholka—present
Ananich—present	Glaridon—present	Liss—present	Rendon—present
Barnett—present	Goike—present	Lori—present	Rogers—present
Bauer—present	Haines—present	Lund—present	Rutledge—present
Bledsoe—present	Hammel—present	Lyons—present	Santana—present
Bolger—present	Haugh—present	MacGregor—present	Schmidt, R.—present
Brown—present	Haveman—present	MacMaster—present	Schmidt, W.—present
Brunner—present	Heise—present	McBroom—present	Scott—present
Bumstead—present	Hobbs—present	McCann—present	Segal—present
Byrum—present	Hooker—present	McMillin—present	Shaughnessy—present
Callton—present	Horn—present	Meadows—present	Shirkey—present
Cavanagh—present	Hovey-Wright—present	Melton—present	Slavens—present
Clemente—present	Howze—present	Moss—present	Smiley—present
Constan—present	Hughes—present	Muxlow—present	Somerville—present
Cotter—present	Huuki—present	Nathan—present	Stallworth—present
Crawford—present	Irwin—present	Nesbitt—present	Stamas—present
Daley—present	Jackson—present	O'Brien—present	Stanley—present
Damrow—present	Jacobsen—present	Oakes—present	Stapleton—present
Darany—present	Jenkins—present	Olson—present	Switalski—present
Denby—present	Johnson—present	Olumba—present	Talabi—present
Dillon—present	Kandrevas—present	Opsommer—present	Tlaib—present
Durhal—present	Knollenberg—present	Ouimet—present	Townsend—present
Farrington—present	Kowall—present	Outman—present	Tyler—present
Forlini—present	Kurtz—present	Pettalia—present	Walsh—present
Foster—present	LaFontaine—present	Poleski—present	Womack—present
Franz—present	Lane—present	Potvin—present	Yonker—present
Geiss—present	LeBlanc—present	Price—present	Zorn—present
Genetski—present	Lindberg—present		

Rep. Hugh D. Crawford, from the 38th District, offered the following invocation:

“Heavenly Father, as we bow our heads and thank You for Your love, please accept our thanks for the peace that yields this day and the shared faith that makes its continuance likely. Make us strong to do Your work, willing to heed and hear Your will.

God, please grace us with Your presence as we meet in joint session.

We are given the responsibility not to advance our own purposes, nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. It is our responsibility to serve. Help us to remember this Lord.

Amen.”

### **Announcement by the Clerk of Printing and Enrollment**

The Clerk announced that the following bills and joint resolution had been printed and placed upon the files of the members on Wednesday, January 19:

<b>House Bill Nos.</b>	<b>4086</b>	<b>4087</b>	<b>4088</b>	<b>4089</b>	<b>4090</b>	<b>4091</b>	<b>4092</b>	<b>4093</b>	<b>4094</b>	<b>4095</b>	<b>4096</b>	<b>4097</b>	<b>4098</b>	<b>4099</b>
	<b>4100</b>	<b>4101</b>	<b>4102</b>	<b>4103</b>	<b>4104</b>	<b>4105</b>	<b>4106</b>	<b>4107</b>	<b>4108</b>					
<b>House Joint Resolution</b>		<b>F</b>												

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

#### **COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT**

The following report, submitted by Rep. Moss, Chair, of the Committee on Appropriations, was received and read:

Meeting held on: Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Present: Reps. Moss, Haveman, Agema, Genetski, Kowall, Lori, Rogers, Bumstead, Cotter, Forlini, Goike, Jenkins, MacGregor, MacMaster, Poleski, Pscholka, Potvin, LeBlanc, Ananich, Bauer, Dillon, Durhal, Jackson, Lindberg, Lipton, McCann and Tlaib

By unanimous consent the House returned to the order of

#### **Motions and Resolutions**

Rep. Stamas moved that a special committee of four members be appointed to notify the Senate that the House was ready to meet the Senate in Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed.

The Speaker appointed as such committee Representatives Glardon, Kowall, Howze and Lindberg.

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The special committee to notify the Senate that the House was ready to meet in Joint Convention returned to the House along with the members of the Senate.

The committee, through its Chairperson, reported that it had performed the duty assigned it. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the members of the Senate, who were admitted and conducted to seats.

### **Joint Convention**

6:30 o'clock p.m.

The Joint Convention was called to order by the President of the Joint Convention, Lieutenant Governor Calley.

Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, Archdiocese of Detroit, offered the following invocation:

“Blessed are You, Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth. We praise and thank You for establishing the world according to a wise and right order, Your eternal law for creation’s well-being and the perfection of all that is. We praise and thank You, Lord God, for fashioning our minds and hearts according to this law, for ‘inscribing it in our hearts,’ so that we may distinguish what is just and good from what is wicked and unjust. And, we bless Your Name for making us free so that in freely choosing to follow the law of our nature we can perfect our freedom and flourish according to Your design.

We pray to You, O Almighty and Eternal God! You are our creator, and rule over the destinies of all peoples and powers. As the psalmist says, in proclaiming the belief of all the children of Abraham: ‘The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein’ (Ps. 24:1). We pray to You with our minds and hearts lifted up to You, Who alone are good and holy, the source of all that is good and true and right. You are our Father, our ever-merciful and all-gracious Father.

We come before You vividly aware of how much needs to be done to strengthen in the state of Michigan the fabric of our community through works of solidarity, and we know that achieving our aspirations is only possible with Your merciful help. We raise this prayer to You on a day, at a time, when our future in Michigan seems uncertain and we are sorely tempted to wonder whether the greatest blessings of Your bounty are in the past. But, not so, Lord; Your blessings are boundless and Your goodness never fails.

We lift up to You, O God our Father, all those who are in need in our State: the hungry and the homeless, those without work, those who look toward tomorrow with anxiety and despair. Send them help, O Lord, and send us the means to be their help and the resolve to offer it.

Give us light, O Lord, giver of all insight, light to comprehend the nature of the challenges we, the citizens of Michigan, face and light to understand the wisest and surest way to meet them. Give us courage to take up these daunting tasks, which fall to us, according to the dispositions of Your all-good Providence. Give us the virtue of solidarity, that sure and unwavering commitment to act for the common good, and not for one’s own personal gain or advantage, so that together, with Your help, we may in this State and in all its communities, build for the next generation a society that is true to Your plan for the human family, a society of justice, peace and prosperity.

And to crown all, O Lord, give us citizens of Michigan hope: hope in Your unfailing help, hope rooted in Your abiding presence, hope in what You can do in us and through us, when we turn to You for guidance and strength.

In offering this prayer for our State, we are mindful that through the Apostle Paul You have directed us to pray for our leaders, for he wrote to Timothy to ‘urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for rulers and everyone who has authority over us, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way’ (1 Tm 2:1-2). And in his Letter to the Romans the Apostle he taught that ‘there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God’ (Rm. 13:1).

So, Lord God, taught by Your word, and according to Your sovereign will, we fervently intercede on behalf of all who govern our State. We pray for Governor Snyder and the members of his administration; we pray for our legislators and our judges; we pray for all to whom we have entrusted the exercise of authority in the government. May all their acts advance the preservation of peace, the promotion of happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and in all matters may they perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

‘We, the People’ have given this authority to them as a sacred trust. We have, as a free people, designated them to be Your agents as stewards of Your creation. Our well-being depends on their discharging of this trust with wisdom and courage, justice and compassion. Pour out these virtues upon them in abundance.

In order to fulfill their grave responsibilities to protect and advance our common good, they must have Your help, Lord God. Theirs is a heavy burden, and for this stewardship You will one day demand an accounting. Our leaders are willing to bear this burden for the sake of us and those we hold dear. How could we not pray for them with the full measure of our hearts’ ardor in order to ask You to guide and sustain them? We beg You to help and direct them unfailingly so that their tenure in political service will be renowned for encouraging due respect for virtue and religion, for the faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; for restraining vice and immorality, and for building up everything that gives life to the common good.

Above all, O Lord, give the gifts of right judgment and self-sacrificing service to all who lead – not only political leaders, but all those who have authority to guide and shape the various spheres of our civic life, especially education, the ecology, commerce, public safety and health care. May they never fail to see that in all their decisions You call them to widen the scope of our freedoms, to secure the well-being of families, to protect the strangers in our midst, to advance the flourishing of the whole civil society, and – above all and in all – to preserve the authentic and irreducible dignity of every human life from conception to natural death. Let them know the right and give them the courage to do the right.

O Lord God Our Father, we thank you for Your love for us, the people of Michigan. We thank You that You have given us this land to be our home, a place whose beauty we recognize every time we look around us. We thank You that You have made us a free people, drawn from every race and language and creed in the world, living in mutual respect and cooperation. We bless Your name for our religious liberty and praise You that in our exercise of this liberty we have been able to do our part to make our State and our nation a greater and freer people, a light of liberty to the world.

Lord God: bless Michigan, bless America. Lord God, keep us free.”

The roll of the Senate was called by the Secretary, who announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

The roll of the House was called by the Clerk, who announced that a quorum of the House was present.

The President of the Joint Convention announced that the two Houses had met in Joint Convention to receive the message of the Governor.

Representative Stamas moved that a special committee, consisting of two Representatives and two Senators, be appointed to invite and escort the State Officers to the Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Joint Convention named as such committee Representatives Shaughnessy and Brunner, and Senators Booher and Johnson.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the special committee appointed to invite the State Officers to be present at the Joint Convention.

The State Officers, escorted by the committee, were conducted to seats.

Senator Meekhof moved that a special committee, consisting of two Representatives and two Senators, be appointed to invite and escort the Judges of the Court of Appeals to the Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Joint Convention named as such committee Representatives Heise and Stapleton, and Senators Schuitmaker and Hood.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the special committee appointed to invite the Judges of the Court of Appeals to be present at the Joint Convention.

The Judges of the Court of Appeals, escorted by the committee, were conducted to seats.

Representative Stamas moved that a special committee, consisting of two Representatives and two Senators, be appointed to invite and escort the Justices of the Supreme Court to the Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Joint Convention named as such committee Representatives Cotter and Oakes, and Senators Rocca and Bieda.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the special committee appointed to invite the Justices of the Supreme Court to be present at the Joint Convention.

The Justices of the Supreme Court, escorted by the committee, were conducted to seats.

Senator Meekhof moved that a special committee, consisting of four Representatives and four Senators, be appointed to invite and escort the Governor to the Joint Convention.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Joint Convention named as such committee Representatives Haveman, Scott, Dillon and Lane, and Senators Casperson, Robertson, Gregory and Warren.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the special committee to wait on the Governor.

The Governor, escorted by the committee, was conducted to the rostrum.

The President of the Joint Convention then introduced Governor Snyder who gave his message to the Joint Convention as follows:

“Thank you for such a fabulous welcome. It’s exciting to be with you tonight and good evening. Let me start by thanking several individuals and groups. First of all I want to thank, Speaker Bolger, I want to thank Lieutenant Governor Calley, and Senator Majority Leader Richardville. Also I want to extend Senate Democratic Leader Whitmer, House Democratic Leader Hammel, the Members of the Supreme Court, our Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, our Attorney General Bill Schuette, the Cabinet members, Ladies and gentlemen of the legislature, thank you for having me. Our fellow public servants and a special thanks to the Michigan men and women serving our country in the Armed Forces. I have one more thank you to add. Last, but not least, is a very important group of people that I am happy to have here tonight and to have them join me tonight is my family.

In my inaugural address I spoke about the reinvention of Michigan and the need for the cultural of our state to change. Tonight I am here to outline a series of tangible steps needed in the next year to drive the Reinvention of Michigan.

Tonight, I will present a report card on the state of the state to establish a benchmark that we will collectively work towards improving in the coming years.

Tonight, I will present a roadmap of initiatives that our administration will emphasize during the course of the year.

Tonight, I will ask for participation from all of us. The path to a bright future is based on all of us contributing to the solution.

Tonight, I will start with the specifics on the topic of economic development. Simply put — Job One is Jobs.

All of us know we are in a crisis unmatched the last 60 years of our state. This is a crisis we will solve by working together and adopting an attitude of relentless positive action. We have a multitude of problems that we will solve in a systematic fashion through hard work and teamwork. The solution will take time. There are no quick fixes or magic solutions. We have a government sector with an unsustainable government model that has mortgaged our children's future with more than \$54 billion in pension and benefit liabilities. We have far too many young people who are not leaving school with the education they need in the future.

We have an economic climate that left too many people unemployed, underemployed or forced to leave the state particularly our young people. We will address these unaddressed issues and solve them and not put them off as we have in the past. And to do that we will focus on substance rather than form. We will not dwell in the past or the depth of our problems. The focus will be on agreeing on action, implementation, measuring results, and continuous improvement. We will not continue the fighting that resulted in rhetoric and paralysis. It is time to solve problems.

Let me start with a new concept. We are creating a means for which to actually measure Michigan's progress. I find it curious too we have actually had State of the State addresses for decades, yet I don't know of one where we have had a report card to gauge our success. Government tends to avoid measures and metrics since they can lead to criticism. It's also true for many of us. Many people do not like to be graded. In fact I can think of three people in the front who don't like that concept. It is time for that attitude to disappear. True success is based on achieving real results of real people. We are going to have tough, hard measurements and our achievements or lack of progress will be evident.

So tonight I am presenting the Michigan Dashboard. I will present a summary of this Dashboard in every State of the State address I give. It is composed of 21 different measures in 5 key areas. The Dashboard is designed to provide information at a glance. You don't need to be an economist or scientist to understand it. It includes Michigan's current standing in particular categories such as unemployment. You can also see weather that trend is improving in terms of a positive or negative direction. Where feasible, it will include Michigan's national rank.

The measurable areas will be: Economic Growth; Health and Education; Value for Government; Quality of Life; and Public Safety. These areas align with how we organize the executive branch into the Group Executive Structure. This structure will ensure close cooperation and coordination between interrelated program areas. We will continue this process to realign our government to move from one that is based on functions to one that is based on results. Also, we will be developing Dashboards for state government performance and all our state departments. We will measure and measure and measure and that is how we will succeed. The Michigan Dashboard is ready to go. I see some have summaries already. For those at home, please visit it at: [www.Michigan.gov/MiDashboard](http://www.Michigan.gov/MiDashboard) and tell us what you think.

Now let me share with you our proposed roadmap for addressing major topics throughout the year. It is a very aggressive agenda but I believe it is the right agenda. As I said in the inaugural address 'We need to make the old unbelievable the new achievable.'

First, the number one item has to be the need for more and better jobs. So economic development is the focus of tonight.

Second, by mid-February we will present a budget to the legislature. This is one month ahead of the required deadline. We will present a two year budget. The first is the legally required budget and the second is for planning purposes. Having a two year budget will force tough decisions, we'll not play kick the can down the road until the next year. We will request a budget based on outcomes and results and move away from traditional line item. The old approach led the tradition of old bureaucracy. We need to ensure the citizens are getting value for their money. We need to show results for real people.

Our budget will include the elimination of the job-killing Michigan Business Tax and replace it with a 6% corporate net income tax.

I have been impressed with the strong leadership in our new Legislature. In particular I am looking forward to working with Senator Kahn and Representative Moss on the budget, and Senator Brandenburg and Representative Gilbert on tax issues. Given your commitment to show results for citizens, I will ask that we strive to complete the budget process by May 31st. And I'm still standing here safely.

Third, as part of our 182 day initiative we will follow up on the State of the State address in the February budget message with a series of special messages to the legislature on key issues. We will present a special message on government reform to the Legislature in March. Government reform needs to happen at all levels from townships to cities, from counties to the state, to school districts as well. We need to positively encourage local jurisdictions both municipal and school to move to service consolidation and better deliver value for money. We will provide better services for less



money. To encourage not only service sharing and best management we will ask that revenue sharing be redone with significant positive incentives for jurisdictions that adopt best practice.

We will present a special message on education to the Legislature in April. As I said earlier, we must do more to help students achieve academic success. We have been spending money without delivering the results needed to give our young people a bright future. It's time to view our educational system as running prenatal through lifelong learning. It is time to start talking about P-20 instead of just K-12.

We need to establish a system that establishes real outcomes for all of our children. We cannot leave children behind without the tools for success in their adult lives. But we all need to encourage better and faster opportunities for the children that can go further and faster in our system.

We will also task our executive group on people with vigorously pursuing improvements in our healthcare system in terms of cost, quality and access. We must emphasize on wellness and preventive care. All of our citizens need access to preventative care from primary care providers. It's critical to prevent routine ailments from becoming severe conditions that require emergency room treatments. Our Dashboard also makes the case for much better prenatal care. We will build a system that encourages all of us to have an annual physical, reduce obesity and encourage a healthy active lifestyle in our state. I can see we have a group more encouraged about dieting than others. Now let us turn to specific paths for action.

Government's role is to create an environment that allows people to succeed. To reinvent our state all of us must participate. There are three paths I will use throughout my administration to impact those needs: first, actions the executive branch can take; second, the steps we are requesting in partnership with legislature; and third, how all our citizens, our businesses and communities can participate.

Now let me start with economic development and other urgent issues. We have created a group focused on economic growth headed by Mike Finney. Mike built the Ann Arbor Spark into one of the nation's most effective successful economic development corporations. This executive group includes the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Department of Transportation, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and much of our workforce development activities in the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, by bridging gaps between state government's investments in economic development, transportation and housing, we position government to revitalize our communities. If we are to have a stronger Michigan, we need a better and stronger MEDC.

First, in the past the MEDC and regional economic groups too often overlap in terms of field activities. We have a number of very strong regional groups that are capable of taking the lead in the field. The MEDC will re-calibrate and become a better partner with these regional groups to enhance economic gardening, talent enhancement and support services to companies. The MEDC staff will literally co-locate with local partners to ensure seamless delivery of services to client companies and optimal use of tools. The MEDC serves as a clearinghouse, a best practice center and a problem solver across the state. It will continue to represent the state internationally with support from local partners.

Second, the MEDC will become an advocate of open-source economic development. This means we will leverage successful programs and practices to benefit of all regions of the state.

For examples: since Oakland County's Automation Alley is a best-in-class for international trade, we will engage them to maximize the potential to other regions; and because The Right Place in Grand Rapids is the best-in international business attraction, we will leverage their capabilities to benefit the entire state. We need to focus on being the best across the state and not focus on who claims credit.

Third, we need to put more emphasis on 'economic gardening' as opposed to 'hunting.' For those unfamiliar with 'economic gardening' it means we will focus first and foremost on building businesses that are already here in the state. For start-ups and young business we will work with our regional partners to continue to develop entrepreneurial networking, business acceleration services, incubators, pre-seed funds and entrepreneurial education will be a priority.

We will create a statewide network of talent coordinators who are focused on connecting entrepreneurs, innovators, management talent and job seekers with established companies using the open source economic development model. We will follow the success of Ann Arbor Sparks talent enhancement program. We will identify 'economic gardening' activities as a result of helping companies post their positions on our talent portal and we will scale this for the entire state and offer job posing services to every company that expands, locates or starts a business in our state. I want to offer a special thanks to the Small Business Association of Michigan for its aggressive leadership in this area.

Next we need to do a much better job of connecting our workforce development efforts with our community colleges and economic development organizations. Instead of simply putting people in training courses, we will focus on looking at future employment trends and develop clearer paths for people in need, to get the skills they need to find and be successful in real jobs.

On the topic of regulatory reform, we will review existing and proposed regulations to create a better environment for economic success while maintaining our duty of protecting citizens and businesses. We will partner with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce to stop the effort to create over-reaching regulations on ergonomics standards that have been discussed for the past few years.

On our urban challenges we are working on a partnership to create a new office in the executive branch. The Governor's office has traditionally had a Detroit office but we will do more. Thorough this partnership we will create an Office of

Urban Initiatives to proactively address issues in Detroit and the rest of the urban areas. In addition to Detroit we will establish offices in Grand Rapids and Flint-Saginaw areas.

We must also strongly support our rural areas. They have helped Michigan through some of its toughest economic times. So we have added a member to the MEDC board with expertise in the credit needs of farmers. I already signed an Executive Order adding rural development to the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to address this topic.

We will establish an exciting new initiative to encourage immigrants with advanced college degrees to come to Michigan to live and work. I have asked the Department of Civil Rights to work with the MEDC on this effort. We need to be a place to openly encourage innovators and entrepreneurs to come to our state. The evidence is clear that advance college degree immigrants can make a difference in creating a positive economic activity environment that benefits us all.

To give you some additional background, for example, about one-half of the start-ups in Silicon Valley have a foreign national as a founder. Immigration made us a great state and country, it is time we embrace this concept again as a way to speed our reinvention.

In addition to budget and tax cuts, there are several items that I am asking our partners in the Legislature, led by Senate Majority Leader Richardville, Senate Minority Leader Whitmer, Speaker Bolger and Minority Leader Hammel, to work with us on.

It is an honor to be in this chamber tonight. I believe we have a tremendous opportunity to serve as role models on how to solve problems and succeed in this new era.

First, vibrant communities and schools are vital to Michigan's future. Unfortunately many face unprecedented financial challenges due to past and current economic conditions. My administration will present to you important changes to Public Act 72 – the Emergency Financial Manager's Act. The current act does not allow for early enough action and intervention in the process. Also, we must have better clarity over the powers of financial managers. These strengthened provisions apply to both municipalities and schools. I ask for your early review and passage of this legislation.

Second, the scope of the 21st Century Jobs Fund is currently restricted to a limited list of eligible industries. This isn't right. The role of government is to support success – not to pick winners or losers. We are asking the Legislature to remove the restrictions on what fields can be supported by this fund. Agriculture and information technology, among others, would greatly benefit from this opportunity.

Third, we will propose to eliminate or modify antiquated laws. While some laws need updating others are relics of a time past and need to be scrapped. Michigan's 1970s-vintage 'Item Pricing Law' is exhibit A. Revitalizing our economy demands that we weed out needless regulations that cost consumers and throw up barriers to competition. Michigan is only one of two states that require almost every item on a store shelf to be labeled with a price tag. In today's world of scanners, barcodes, automated inventory systems, we are simply adding an undue burden on retailers and consumers. A recent economic study said that requiring these 'stickers' over other forms of marking, costs our economy over \$2 billion dollars a year. That's no bargain. It's bad for business and it's bad for consumers. Let's embrace technology while saving consumers time and money yet still protecting them. Let's make item pricing one law that's out of stock.

Fourth, we also need to support the families that produce and process our food, the men and women of Michigan's agricultural industry. These are the people who are leaders in weathering the economic storms for the past decade and who continue to grow. We must better recognize agriculture's importance to our economy. I ask you to join me in applauding our agricultural innovators.

Today I ask the legislators to make an important step that will enable agriculture to thrive. In addition to making agricultural processing eligible for 21st Century Jobs Fund, I'm requesting that lawmakers strengthen the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program to make it a 'seal of assurance' so that farmers that run environmentally sound operations are protected from unnecessary regulations and frivolous law suits.

Fifth, in our budget recommendations, we will include the funding of Pure Michigan at an annual rate of \$25 million dollars. This program supports one of our strongest assets, our water resources and the treasures of the Great Lakes. As an illustration of value for money, its positive image and its positive return on our tax dollars. Pure Michigan was ranked by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the top ten tourism campaigns of all time. We have studies showing that for every dollar spent on Pure Michigan advertising, it results in more than \$2 in tax revenue for the state. I ask the legislature to recognize that positive return on investment and lend its full support

Sixth, I urge prompt passage of a capital outlay bill that implements the recommendations of the Natural Resources Trust Fund. From the greatness of the land and the resourcefulness of the citizens of the Upper Peninsula, to the unquestioned beauty and economic engine as our Great Lakes, natural resources and recreation have always been among our strongest areas. The Fund's board of trustees has recommended 117 recreation and land acquisition projects totaling more than \$100 million dollars. These projects will positively impact nearly every corner of our state from Iron County in the Upper Peninsula to Traverse City, to Luna Pier in Monroe County. Also included is a significant expansion in the William G. Milliken Park on the Detroit riverfront.

The seventh item is international trade. To achieve success in today's world, it requires that we look beyond our borders. We must open ourselves to the promise and potential of global marketplace. We must increase exports for

Michigan farmers, manufacturers and entrepreneurs. Last year Canada was the top market for our products. In 2009 Michigan did roughly \$44 billion dollars in trade with Canada. We also know that 1 of 8 jobs in Detroit is in an export industry; and in Grand Rapids it is 1 in 7. We can point with pride to our Detroit, Port Huron and Sault Ste. Marie points of entry, which handle over one-third of all U.S. trade with Canada. We are working hard on improving these processes with widen approaches to the international bridge and major improvements to ease the traffic flow at the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron, but we also witnessed how fragile the process is, and how dependent our just in time deliveries are with the closure of Highway 402 in Sarnia on December 14. It shut down all trade across the Blue Water Bridge and caused major back-ups at the Ambassador Bridge.

Global demand for our ports of entry is expected to increase steadily with no signs of slowing. To satisfy the growing demand, we must move forward towards building a bridge, a new bridge, connecting Detroit to Windsor, Ontario; the Detroit River International Crossing. Now I ask you to forget everything you heard in last year's debate proposed on the Detroit River International Crossing. We will present a totally revamped and highly attractive economic development proposal including a recent agreement from Washington. Private sector investment will be used to build the bridge itself. Canada has generously offered \$550 million dollars for the construction of the U.S. portion of the road system to connect to the bridge as part of the public private partnership for the entire project. Their investment will be fully recouped from toll revenue. During a visit last week to Washington, Transportation Director Kirk Steudle and I secured a unique agreement from the Federal Highway Administration to use this \$550 million dollar investment in our infrastructure towards the matching funds required for all federally-funded highway projects across our state. And I assure you that the Michigan taxpayers will not take in any debt related to this project.

This project is not just a Detroit issue, every farmer and manufacturer can tell you why it's important to have world trade. This new bridge will create jobs, strengthen our economy and help establish Michigan as a hub for global commerce. So let's work together so this opportunity does not slip away.

Now let me turn to how our citizens, community and business can join this effort. First let me share two success stories of what companies and universities are already doing as role models for all of us. I want to recognize an exciting new initiative to attract young people to Detroit by the Henry Ford Health System, the Detroit Medical Center and Wayne State University. They are spearheading the '15 by 15' project, a coordinated effort to bring 15,000 young educated people to live in Midtown Detroit by the year 2015. Working with the Midtown Association and local foundations, the program will provide incentives such as loans to new homeowners and assistance to renters. We hope this model will inspire others across Michigan to rebuild their urban cores.

I am also pleased to announce the University Research Corridor Institutions—University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Michigan State University are entering into research partnership with Procter & Gamble Company. In fact we are joined here tonight by Pat Hayes, Associate Director for Procter & Gamble. It is P&G's only second partnership along these lines. It's groundbreaking, it's a collaboration to speed innovative ideas to marketplace by simplifying the legal process that companies and universities use to negotiate research projects. It will also provide opportunities for Michigan students to gain first hand exposure to large companies and the real business world, while exposing these companies to top talent and future employees. To show how organizations can help one another though, once this program is up and running it will be extended from the 3 URC organizations to all 15 public universities across our state.

Now behind every company of course are the innovative people. They are the ones that pour out their talent, their heart, their dreams and their souls in pursuit of new endeavors. We are fortunate to have some outstanding examples of successful entrepreneurs with us this evening. I'm pleased to start with Dr. Peter Littrup, Founder of Delphinus Medical Technologies, Inc. Delphinus is a successful medical device company in Wayne County that is a spin-out of the Karmanos Institute. It is now building 3-dimensional full breast ultrasound imaging devices to help with breast cancer. It uses a comfortable and reliable patented technology. The company is an incubator tenant at the Michigan Life Sciences and Innovation Center. This company can take great pride in its life saving work and is a great illustration of a home grown Michigan business at its best. We are honored to have Dr. Littrup with us tonight. Please join me in showing Dr. Littrup the appreciation he deserves.

Now one final entrepreneurial story comes from right here in Lansing. It is a company Liquid Web. It is a growing IT data center company in Delta Township which has expanded to two major centers in the last five years. Liquid Web has gone from a start-up company in 1997, built by two young men, to a company that has over 20,000 clients in over 120 countries. Here is one of the best parts, by taking advantage of state programs like Michigan Works!, the company's been hiring laid off workers and putting them through an innovated internal training program. So congratulations to our next two guests. We are pleased to have with us tonight, Matthew Hill, CEO and Gregg Hill Secretary/Treasurer. Matthew and Greg, we are glad you can make your dreams.

Now each of these stories have common threads running through them and it reflects the amazing potential already at work in our state. In each case they tell a story about experience, teamwork and inspiring leadership. That same commitment is what will propel our long-term success. Businesses and organizations must have a relentless focus on their core missions. That helps all of us. You must challenge yourself to be an innovator in the process in dealing with others. Consider becoming a customer of a start-up company, try out some locally made products and services. Sometime the single element between success and failure is a single customer. Let's make our state the best in the country when it comes to supporting our own entrepreneurs.



All 10 million of us have a role to play and I am asking each of you to join me in doing what you can to build a better Michigan. That might include volunteering in your community or becoming a mentor. No matter how old or young you are or what your background is, there is a big opportunity for you to make a difference. Michigan needs you. Simple truth is, that the Reinvention of Michigan depends just as much on what each citizen does, as what my team and I do, or what this Legislature does.

What I am asking is really quite simple; let us each recommit our time, our talents, and our passion to ourselves, our families and the state we love. Together — we can build a New Michigan for the New Century.

We can make the old unbelievable the new achievable. And we can make the improbable the new exciting reality for our children and theirs. We can, indeed we must, begin right now to build a Michigan where the next generation has the chance to live, to work, to play, and to prosper. So let's roll up our shirtsleeves and get to work.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight, God bless you and God bless the great state of Michigan.”

The business of the Joint Convention having been completed, the Governor, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Judges of the Court of Appeals and the State Officers withdrew.

Representative Stamas moved that the Joint Convention adjourn.

The motion prevailed, the time being 7:55 o'clock p.m.

The Lt. Governor and members of the Senate retired.

The Speaker announced that the House of Representatives and Senate had met in Joint Convention and had listened to the message of the Governor.

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Rep. Womack moved that the House adjourn.

The motion prevailed, the time being 8:00 p.m.

The Speaker declared the House adjourned until Thursday, January 20, at 12:00 Noon.

GARY L. RANDALL  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

