

Wednesday, June 25th, 2021

The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Majority Leader
Michigan State Senate
S-106 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Jason Wentworth
Speaker
Michigan House of Representatives
164 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Jim Ananich
Minority Leader
Michigan State Senate
S-105 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Donna Lasinski
Minority Leader
Michigan House of Representatives
167 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Leader Shirkey, Speaker Wentworth, Leader Ananich and Leader Lasinski,

For nearly a year and a half the State of Michigan has faced tremendous challenges as it dealt with a deadly pandemic. Today though, we are presented with an opportunity. Our opportunity is to strategically invest in our residents, entrepreneurs, businesses, and communities to build a legacy of abundance. We all desire a future with more prosperity, more ownership, more community, and more pride. Investing wisely now is the surest way to secure that future.

As community and business leaders, we support a comprehensive framework to invest, leverage, and amplify American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources in the following ways to lay a foundation for a stronger recovery.

- Utilize ARP funds and state and local resources to **invest** in infrastructure, capacity, and fiscal stability that benefit people, places, and businesses.
- Create multi-sector partnerships between communities, state leaders, interest groups, businesses, and philanthropy to **leverage** additional resources, accelerating the impact of our investment.
- Create long-term change to sustain and **amplify** investment for us and our future.

To meet these ambitious goals, we suggest focusing the state's ARP resources in a coordinated fashion across five key areas:

- Water infrastructure and broadband
- Local capacity and fiscal stability
- Housing and community development
- Comprehensive economic development
- Public health and safety

The decisions made in the coming weeks and months will define our recovery path. Collectively, we understand that our future success is inextricably linked, and the strategic investment of our available resources needs to support and strengthen these connections. We believe this framework capitalizes on the economic value of thriving communities, advances equity, builds community wealth, supports entrepreneurship, and spurs business development.

We come to you as partners interested in helping Michigan achieve its promise of abundance for today and tomorrow. We also come ready to work. Our recovery has only begun, but together we can, and will, emerge from this stronger. As leaders representing people across Michigan, we offer our support and our voice for a comprehensive strategy to invest American Rescue Plan funds. We welcome an opportunity to work with you directly on how we can build a path forward for Michigan residents, businesses, and communities that is supported with the tools and resources necessary to create future prosperity.

Sincerely,

Bonnifer Ballard, Executive Director, American Water Works Association- Michigan

Mark Behnke, Mayor, City of Battle Creek

Kathleen Newsham, Mayor, City of Bay City

Luke Forest, Executive Director, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan

Jordyn Sellek, Executive Director, Conference of Western Wayne

John B. O'Reilly, Jr., Mayor, City of Dearborn

Renze Hoeksema, Vice President, Corporate & Governmental Affairs, DTE Energy

Rosalynn Bliss, Mayor, City of Grand Rapids

Dawn Crandell, Executive Vice President of Government Relations, Home Builders Association of Michigan

Derek Dobies, Mayor, City of Jackson

David Anderson, Mayor, City of Kalamazoo

Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing

Stephan Currie, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Counties

Erin Kuhn, President, Michigan Association of Regions

Mike Larson, President & CEO, Michigan Association of United Ways

Lance Binoniemi, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association

Daniel P. Gilmartin, Executive Director and CEO, Michigan Municipal League

Justin Winslow, President & CEO, Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association

Tim Neumann, Executive Director, Michigan Rural Water Association

Neil Sheridan, Executive Director, Michigan Townships Association

Joel Davenport, Board President, Michigan Water Environment Association

Michael P. McGee, Principal, Miller Canfield

Stephen Gawron, Mayor, City of Muskegon

Cindy Larsen, President, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce

Rich Bowman, Director of Policy, Nature Conservancy

Jim Nash, Water Resources Commissioner, Oakland County

John Essex, Managing Director, Port City Ventures

Daniel Dimitroff, Partner, RDS Management

Jared Fleisher, Vice President, Government Affairs, Rock Central

Brenda F. Moore, Mayor, City of Saginaw

Veronica Horn, President & CEO, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce

Samuel Shaheen, M.D., President, Shaheen Development

Amy O'Leary, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Arthur Havlicek, President & CEO, Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce

Sheri Welsh, President & CEO, Welsh & Associates

Erin Kuhn, Executive Director, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission

Donna Inch

Evan N. Pratt, P.E., Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner