



To: Honorable Members of the Michigan Senate & House of Representatives

From: Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Bay Future, Inc., Consumers Energy, Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance, I.B.E.W. Local 692, I.B.E.W. Local 948, LiUNA Local 1098, McLaren Bay Region, Michigan Sugar Company, Operating Engineers Local 324, Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Saginaw Valley State University, UA Local 85

Date: November 11, 2020

Re: Support SBs 1215-1218, Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Investment

Our organizations, comprised of business, organized labor, higher education and membership organizations, strongly support legislation related to public-private partnerships for municipal infrastructure in Michigan.

Michigan’s economic competitiveness, job creation and the health and safety of citizens depends on the implementation of effective strategies to construct and maintain safe, reliable and affordable infrastructure. Unfortunately, Michigan’s infrastructure repair needs greatly exceed the available public funding at all levels of government. Now more than ever, many cities in Michigan have limited resources and few options for critical infrastructure needs when state or federal funding is not available. In many cases, cities are forced to close or restrict access to infrastructure when financing options are not available.

We support sustainable, long-term solutions to address infrastructure challenges in Michigan that do not impede continued economic growth and activity. Infrastructure is an essential component to attracting and retaining business. Despite Michigan’s positive economic growth before COVID-19, infrastructure investment did not keep pace. This investment is critical to a community's ability to attract and retain businesses and talent, as communities that are growing invest in infrastructure and invest in long-term progress.

We advocate for economic development in all sectors and support policies at the local, state and national levels that will help us attract, retain and expand businesses in the state. Private investment in projects, including Bay City's Independence and Liberty Bridges, will stimulate the economy and create good paying jobs while maintaining critical transportation links that are essential to area businesses and residents. The Independence Bridge is a concrete example of this, helping drive both our local and regional economies. From tourists to agribusiness, the connection between M-15 and I-75 is paramount to regaining the economic momentum in Bay City and the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Investing in Michigan's infrastructure is critical to our economic recovery, prosperity and quality of life. We urge you to pass the proposed legislation that will provide cities in Michigan with an innovative financing mechanism to address our infrastructure needs and build for the future.