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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NANCY JENKINS-ARNO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter in support of a Legislative Directed Fund for the Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute (SBWI) in the amount of \$12,000,000. This investment will lead directly to increasing Michigan's workforce. It is also a short-term investment that will create a lasting impact in our State and for the growing mass timber industry.

With the requested funding, SBWI is expected to expand its annual graduate capacity from 20 to 60 students in 4 years, and 200 students in 20 years, which will address ever increasing workforce demands. Given the high demand for this program, the institute does not have enough seats available for incoming students. Even with the additional construction of the institute and the increase in student enrollment, the program will remain affordable for Michiganders and will provide them with a sustainable career and a competitive wage.

In addition, the institute plans to work with the Community College Association of Michigan to develop additional career pathway credentials. The improvement will also allow SBWI to partner with four-year institutions for degrees in the forest products field, providing more Michiganders with the ability to enter this field with the intent of developing a lifelong career.

I strongly support the Sam Beauford Woodworking Institute's request. It is the kind of investment we should be making in our communities and in our state. We must remain economically competitive and SBWI will have a direct impact on the specialty woodworking profession in the State of Michigan and will add value to our Michigan heritage.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office at nancyjenkinsarno@house.mi.gov or call 517-373-8808.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jenkins-Arno
State Representative
District 34