Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As always, I am committed to working hard for our district while moving Michigan forward. This legislative term has been dedicated to fostering job growth, preparing students for the future and making government more accountable. We are making significant progress and I’m confident that with our continued efforts we can stay on this positive path.

My colleagues and I worked to pass a fiscally responsible budget — months ahead of the October deadline — to ensure schools and local governments have ample time to plan their own budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. To keep Michigan moving in the right direction, we prioritized funding to critical areas such as education, infrastructure and public safety.

With this newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to share some of our recent achievements and invite you to get involved in the process. Your opinions matter and I welcome your input. Please don't hesitate to contact my office at any time. I am ready to listen and assist in any way I can.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL WEBBER
State Representative, 45th District

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Reduction in Government Regulations

Job creation has been my number one priority since taking office. From our state’s booming agricultural industry to small-business owners across Michigan, I am looking for ways to repeal and deregulate unnecessary laws to spur job growth in our local communities. Removing these outdated regulations helps job providers become more efficient.

Flint Water Crisis

This is a difficult situation for our neighbors in Flint. The Michigan Legislature has taken bi-partisan action to help the city with substantial, targeted funding. We have an ongoing mission to preserve the health of Flint’s residents and provide them with clean, fresh water. Part of the appropriations process has been to credit the accounts of drinking water customers for a portion of their water bills since Flint began using the river as its primary source of water.

Further appropriations will come through our current budget process. All told, over $230 million will be appropriated from state government to assist in getting Flint through this crisis.

The House and Senate have created a Joint Committee for the purpose of reviewing the findings surrounding the Flint water crisis, hearing testimony on the mistakes at all levels of government that led to this situation and explore potential policy solutions to prevent a similar disaster in the future. I look forward to reviewing the findings of this committee.

Increasing Transparency in Lansing

You deserve to know what’s happening in your state government. That’s why I support a bipartisan 10-bill package to remove barriers to transparency and give the public better access to internal documents and records within both the governor’s office and the state Legislature.

House Bills 5477-78, which I co-sponsored, subject the governor to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), while House Bills 5469-76 create the Legislative Open Records Act (LORA). LORA mostly mirrors the existing FOIA laws people know, but it does not require citizens to pay significant court and attorney fees to appeal an unreasonable fee or denial of their request.

Providing Tax Relief to Michigan’s Workers

I supported legislation that provides tax relief for hard-working taxpayers. As part of the road repair funding passed last year, we included an income tax cut, which benefits every single worker in the state. We also strengthened the Homestead Property Tax Credit and expanded it to more people. This credit specifically benefits low-income residents, seniors on a fixed income and the middle class.

Investing in Michigan’s Future

Our goal is to make Michigan the best place to live, work and raise a family. My colleagues and I have supported legislation to improve education and ensure a more prosperous future for generations to come.

Michigan currently ranks 40th in the nation in reading proficiency, which is why I supported legislation to create an improved early literacy system. This system monitors the progress of a student’s reading proficiency from kindergarten through third grade with regular literacy screenings, intervention programs, additional classroom time dedicated to reading, and “read-at-home” plans.

I value the importance of a quality education, which leads to greater job opportunities and a brighter future for students. Last year, the Michigan House of Representatives expanded our state’s career vocational programs and dual enrollment. This will improve the standard of living in our state and ensure talented, hard-working residents have the right skills to succeed.