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**Business Leaders for Michigan Urges: Greater Push for Spending Reforms and Combining Best of Reform Proposals into Comprehensive, Holistic Plan for Michigan**

**DETROIT, Mich., February 11, 2010** – Business Leaders for Michigan issued the following statement in reaction to the Governor’s Budget Address today:

Business Leaders for Michigan is committed to supporting a comprehensive and holistic plan to transform Michigan’s economy and create jobs. The Michigan Turnaround Plan we developed recognizes that no one action will turn around Michigan and identified five integral steps that are needed to make Michigan a “Top Ten” state for job & economic growth.

Fiscal, expenditure and tax reforms are the first three steps of the Michigan Turnaround Plan. We need to analyze the details of the Governor’s proposals, but are pleased she has proposed expenditure reforms. While the Governor’s proposals represent a meaningful step in the right direction, they don’t go far enough to put the State on a stable long-term financial footing, but continue to rely on Federal stimulus funding that is likely to evaporate by next year.

Also, while her proposed tax-restructuring plan is similar to the tax reform principles called for in the Michigan Turnaround Plan, we believe any tax restructuring proposal should be revenue neutral and we don’t believe the Governor’s proposal goes far enough, fast enough to make us more competitive.

Business Leaders for Michigan believes expenditure reforms should go beyond those proposed by the Governor — such as those proposed by Senate Republicans, House Democrats, the business community at large or those outlined in the Michigan Turnaround Plan. We would support tax reform only if accompanied by significant expenditure reforms.

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Therefore, we urge the Governor and Senate and House leadership to incorporate the best reform ideas that have been presented into a holistic and comprehensive package of fiscal reforms that will allow Michigan's recovery to begin. Business Leaders for Michigan will continue to work with State leaders to encourage, support and advocate for a fiscal reform package that moves Michigan forward this year.

**About Business Leaders for Michigan:**

Business Leaders for Michigan ([www.BusinessLeadersforMichigan.com](http://www.BusinessLeadersforMichigan.com)) is a private, non-profit executive leadership organization dedicated to making Michigan a "Top Ten" state for job and economic growth. The organization is composed exclusively of the chairpersons, chief executives or most senior executives of Michigan's largest companies and universities, which provide over 300,000 jobs in Michigan, generate over \$1 Trillion in annual revenue and serve over 130,000 students. The organization's work is defined by the Michigan Turnaround Plan, a holistic, fact-based strategy to get Michigan's economy back on track. Visit [www.michiganturnaroundplan.com](http://www.michiganturnaroundplan.com) for more information.

**Michigan Turnaround Plan 5 Steps:**

The Michigan Turnaround Plan will position Michigan for long-term, sustained economic growth through five strategies:

1. Changing the way the state manages its finances
2. Right-sizing and enacting structural budget reforms
3. Getting Michigan competitive to attract and retain jobs
4. Making investments that create a great job environment
5. Accelerating job growth through innovation and entrepreneurship

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