



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BUDGET OFFICE
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DAVID P. MASSARON
DIRECTOR

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Jim Stamas, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

The Honorable Thomas Albert, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

SUBJECT: Another Request to Formally Meet and Negotiate

Dear Chairman Stamas and Chairman Albert:

I do appreciate the recent support shown for several major funding initiatives called for by the Governor, including the wage increase for direct care workers, emergency rental assistance, and funding for testing and vaccine distribution. I know we collectively agree that these are important steps in moving Michigan forward.

I am sending this correspondence to again officially request a formal meeting so that we can jointly negotiate and work together to ensure the available funding not currently appropriated can be put toward our recovery. More than \$2 billion remains at our disposal and I look forward to working together so that we can put that funding to good use for Michigan. As importantly, we share the desire to provide meaningful help to business impacted by this pandemic. Let's work together to do that in an effective way.

As I have said before, it is time to set aside partisanship and find a way to work together. I understand there are frustrations and differences of opinion on the pandemic response, but what we can all agree upon is the need to ensure that we are making full use of the resources that are available to us.

The items that were vetoed in the recent set of bills sent to us by the Legislature represent key points of difference between us, but it does not represent an unwillingness to work together. If we can get together in a room and discuss our common goal to help the people of Michigan, I believe we can come to an agreement on putting the remaining federal dollars to work for our state.

I am requesting that we meet sometime this week, before the close of business on Friday, March 12. As before, I will make myself and my team available at any time that works for your schedules, knowing we need a formal agreement prior to spring break.

We simply cannot waste any more time. Let's use these next few weeks before the spring recess to work together, find common ground, and reach a resolution on the remaining supplemental funding.

Thank you for your consideration and please reach out to me directly to let me know if you believe a joint meeting is possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Massaron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David P. Massaron
State Budget Director