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MICHIGAN

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110th Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

June 20, 2008

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Governor
The State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

I write concerning the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) operating out of Muskegon Area First, in Muskegon, MI. It has come to my attention that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has informed Muskegon Area First that beginning October 1, 2008, funding will no longer be provided for the Muskegon PTAC.

Through state MEDC grants and matching Department of Defense funds, the Muskegon PTAC has historically and consistently played a valuable role to the economic development of its 14 county service area - including the constituents I represent in Kent, Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Ottawa counties. It is my understanding that performance evaluations for the Muskegon PTAC have been exceedingly positive in terms of job creation and the value of contracts they have helped secure.

Nevertheless, I have recently learned that the MEDC is prepared to support funding for a PTAC in the Grand Rapids area while no longer funding the Muskegon office. This is of particular concern to me in light of previous unsuccessful efforts by the Muskegon PTAC to expand their own outreach and establish a satellite office in either Ottawa or Kent counties. I believe it is in the best interest of the constituents I represent and the state as a whole to strive for growth in the region.

Conversely, the MEDC's current direction ultimately appears to be anti-growth. By cutting funding to the Muskegon PTAC and replacing it with an office in Grand Rapids, the MEDC would effectively shut down Muskegon's operation only to attempt recreating a duplicative effort in Grand Rapids. Absent evidence to the contrary, the proposed direction appears counter-productive to the goal of serving a vast constituency of 14 counties, particularly considering Muskegon's desire to expand with a satellite office.

In light of Michigan's 8.5% unemployment rate, and the distressed economic condition of several of the counties Muskegon's PTAC services, I respectfully request that you investigate this matter. Specifically, information regarding the rationale for potentially eliminating a PTAC from a region in serious economic need, and a statistical basis for the decision to no longer provide funds to the Muskegon PTAC would be greatly appreciated.

I trust you agree that helping state businesses increase federal government contracting and procurement opportunities in this region is important to the greater goal of economic growth in Michigan. I believe



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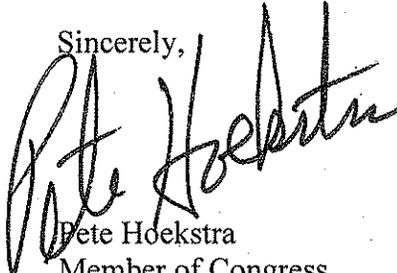
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no longer funding the Muskegon PTAC contradicts that goal and therefore requires your thorough and prompt review.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress

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