United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
133 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen, Vice Chairman, and Ranking Member,

As your subcommittee begins to draft its spending bill for fiscal year 2010, we respectfully request your consideration of the following projects. These projects are a good use of taxpayer funds because they meet a local, state or national public need and maintain or create jobs.

Aerotropolis Telecommunications Portal and Logistics Center - Wayne County, MI

We request $2 million for Wayne County Michigan to continue developing a state-of-the-art telecommunications portal facility which will house a joint public/private telecommunications incubator in Wayne County's Aerotropolis. The incubator will be home to integrated telecommunications capabilities supporting regional knowledge-based telecom research and technology transfer services in Southeastern Michigan. Funds will also support the development of an on-site logistics center to support new and existing small businesses engaged in logistics and supply chain management research and technology development.

Cleary University Multimedia Centers - Ann Arbor, MI

We request $660,000 for Cleary University to update the Multimedia Center for the development and innovation of instructional material. The updated Multimedia Center would be equipped with high-end computer editing stations, decks, a film studio and monitors along with media editing software. A team of developers will build faculty-based media projects with the overall focus on the development and innovation of instructional material whose purpose is enhancing teaching and student learning at the University.

Detroit Economic Growth Corporation Business Attraction and Retention - Detroit, MI

We request $750,000 for the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) Business Attraction and Prevention Program. The DEGC program is the lead business attraction and retention program for the City of Detroit and the Detroit business community. Detroit is the epicenter of Michigan's economic crisis with a 14.3% unemployment rate. DEGC's business attraction and retention efforts have yielded capital investments of over $3.4 billion and an estimated 7,000 retained jobs throughout the city. This funding would be used to continue and enhance key program activities including marketing and promotion, aggressive call schedules to site consultants and corporate decision makers, participation in trade shows and missions, and expanded research and targeting efforts.

Detroit Renaissance Detroit Creative Corridor Center - Detroit, MI

We request $525,000 for the Detroit Renaissance Detroit Creative Corridor Center. This center will serve as the champion of the Creative Economy Initiative, provide leadership for the creative community, and connect creative businesses with programs and services. The Center will provide outreach activities such as professional networking and business programs for creative businesses, associations and workers. These activities and programs will include helping companies build their business, identify and approach other businesses for sales or partnership opportunities, improve industry-specific marketing and sales strategies, and could connect creative businesses with potential investors.

Spectrum Health Innovation Accelerator - Grand Rapids, MI

We request $375,000 for the expansion of the Spectrum Health Innovation Accelerator. Spectrum Health's 2-year old innovation fund was launched to help rebuild the regional economy by focusing on the health and life sciences sector. The innovation fund is a commitment to accelerate innovations in health care, while supporting local businesses in the process. The program seeks to harness innovative ideas from doctors, nurses and other providers and advance them through partnerships with local manufacturing businesses. To date, the fund has 20 concepts in development, one patent, three provisional patents, one copyright and three pending trademarks through partnerships with 5 area businesses. This request will support the program's further expansion beyond the Grand Rapids market.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan Ex-Offender Entrepreneurship Program - Detroit, MI

We request $600,000 for the United Way for Southeastern Michigan Ex-Offender Entrepreneurship Program. Securing post-incarceration employment is one of the best ways to reduce recidivism, but ex-offenders face persistent barriers to traditional hiring. The requested funding will be used to help ex-offenders become self-employed by providing training in small business management, building a business on the Internet, marketing, credit education, sales and customer service. Current economic conditions have dramatically increased the risk of crime and recidivism, and all their social costs, making this program especially important.

Wayne State Law School/Tech Town- Small Business Enterprises Clinic - Detroit, MI

We request $600,000 for the Wayne State Law School/TechTown Small Business Enterprises Clinic. Michigan currently has the highest unemployment rates in the nation and Detroit has one of the highest rates in the state. Small businesses account for 98.5% of companies employing Michigan residents, so developing successful small businesses is essential for combating unemployment throughout the State. The WSU Law School's Small Business Clinic has provided free legal assistance to over 65 small business owners. This assistance has been crucial for many businesses to ensure their viability and success. Funding will be used to expand this program to help hundreds of other small businesses at Tech Town and in Detroit. By supporting these businesses, WSU is able to assist a significant number of businesses that are essential to Michigan's economy.

Western Wayne County Business Accelerator – Northville Township, MI/Wayne County, MI

We request $1 million for Northville Township for the Western Wayne County Business Accelerator. Western Wayne County and its access to I-275 and M-14 make it an attractive place for high-tech companies to locate, however, the region lacks financing mechanisms for entrepreneurs to start new ventures and/or grow their current businesses. This project seeks to work with surrounding communities, local community colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and businesses to develop a business accelerator in Western Wayne County, and the surrounding areas, to cultivate business growth in the areas of technology, advanced manufacturing, and homeland security.

Corporate Expats Inversions - Government Wide – Bill Language

We request the following bill language, which is identical to Section 743, Division D, of P.L. 111-8:

(a) IN GENERAL- None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used for any Federal Government contract with any foreign incorporated entity which is treated as an inverted domestic corporation under section 835(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(b)) or any subsidiary of such an entity.
(b) WAIVERS-
(1) IN GENERAL- Any Secretary shall waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such Secretary if the Secretary determines that the waiver is required in the interest of national security.
(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS- Any Secretary issuing a waiver under paragraph (1) shall report such issuance to Congress.
(c) EXCEPTION- This section shall not apply to any Federal Government contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act, or to any task order issued pursuant to such contract.

We certify that neither we nor our immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending item(s) that we have requested for the Fiscal Year 2010

Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

We further certify that we have posted a description of the items requested on our official websites, along with the accompanying justification.

We appreciate the subcommittee's consideration of our requests. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kata Sybenga of Senator Levin's staff at 202-224-6221 or Patty Readinger of Senator Stabenow's staff at 202-224-4288.

Sincerely,

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Carl Levin