



Testimony before the New Economy and Quality of Life Committee

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First, I would like to again like to thank the committee for this opportunity to testify.

Today we will be hearing from the southeast Michigan economic development community.

Testifying today will be:

Mike Finney, President & CEO, Ann Arbor Spark

Maureen Krauss, Director, Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs

Olga Savic, Director of Strategy and External Affairs, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation

And

Blaire Miller, Interim Senior Vice President Economic Development, Detroit
Regional Economic Partnership

Who will be speaking first.

(Local Economic Developer Testimony)

As mentioned in earlier testimony the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) has begun the process of developing a whitepaper designed to identify opportunities and obstacles and provide recommendations to address Michigan's economic challenges.

We recently surveyed our membership, as well as national and international site location consultants on their views of Michigan's opportunities and obstacles. The result of this survey will be the basis for development of our whitepaper.

This summer we will be holding focus groups with local economic development professionals from across the State. These focus groups will take an in-depth look at the survey results and will formulate recommendations that will be presented in the whitepaper.

We feel strongly that those on the frontline of the process have the best understanding of the issues and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss the merits of the recommendations with the legislature and the new administration.

Our plans are to have our whitepaper prepared and available to the public by late summer.

Thank you.