

October 4, 2011

The Honorable Wayne Schmidt
Chair, Committee on Commerce
Michigan House of Representatives
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Schmidt:

On behalf of the Michigan Manufacturers Association, I am writing to express our support for HB 5002. MMA represents about 2,500 members that operate in the full spectrum of manufacturing industries, ranging from small manufacturers to some of the world's largest corporations. Manufacturing continues to be the largest sector of our economy, directly employing over 500,000 Michigan residents.

MMA believes the revisions to the Workers' Compensation Act included in HB 5002 will provide stability and consistency to how the Act is interpreted and bring it up to date with current medical, legal and economic developments. Workers comp costs are a critical dynamic to competing in today's global environment and we believe that the proposed changes will significantly improve Michigan's business climate by providing both employers and workers with the reliability and predictability that is absolutely necessary to a fair and efficient system.

For too long, workers' comp law has hung in the balance of judicial elections and employers are left to fret that any change in court composition will result in dramatic shifts in interpretation of law. HB 5002 would put an end to this perpetual cycle of indecision, creating clarity and certainty for workers and employers alike.

I urge your support for HB 5002 and hope that you will not hesitate to contact me at 517-487-8530 or Newberry@mma-net.org if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Delaney Newberry
Director, Human Resource Policy