



March 6, 2012

Honorable Pete Lund, Chairman
House Committee on Redistricting and Elections

RE: Testimony on House Bill 5059

Chairman Lund and Committee Members:

I support HB 5059. It represents the promise of a modest improvement in transparency and accountability in the world of money in Michigan politics. It is a good idea to require ballot committees and aspiring new political parties to report their campaign finances quarterly.

In saying that, it is impossible not to make the observation that HB 5059 leaves the 'glass' 99.9 percent empty when it comes to establishing a new standard of transparency and accountability for state political committees. Over 1,200 Michigan political action committees are in the midst of a yearly six-month hiatus in campaign finance reporting. You are among 149 incumbent state-level officeholders who, just five weeks ago, ended a 14-month campaign finance reporting hiatus.

The standard of quarterly campaign finance reporting should be adopted for all political committees in Michigan: ballot committees, political party committees – new and old, political action committees and candidate committees.

I urge you to address the general inadequate frequency of campaign finance reporting in Michigan. Amend HB 5059 so that **all** political committees in Michigan will be required to report their finances at least quarterly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rich Robinson, Executive Director
Michigan Campaign Finance Network