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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

My name is Jack Minore, and I am the Legislative Director of the Michigan State AFL-CIO. I am here to support this package of bills that has generally been described as the "Hire Michigan First" package of bills.

I congratulate the individual sponsors of the legislation, and – especially, Representative Fred Miller for his leadership last session as a key sponsor, and as the Chair of the Labor Committee which reported these (or comparable) bills and saw them pass the House of Representatives only to die in the State Senate. I hope that there will be a better outcome this year.

Tax incentives are an expensive, yet valuable benefit that the State and many local communities extend to the business world. These tax incentives represent the hard earned dollars of Michigan citizens // Michigan working families. Too often, however, the advantages that are given to the businesses accrue to the net profit line, to the corporate headquarters and/or to the shareholders – but NOT to the taxpayers who made the dollars for the incentive available in the first place. That is true regardless of the origin grant, whether in the form of a tax break // tax incentive // tax abatement // government venture capital loan // or in some other form.

The premise behind this package of bills is both simple and logical. They simply require that those companies receiving the tax benefit or incentive would have to hire – to the greatest extent reasonable – residents of Michigan – the very people who made the dollars available in the first place.

It is clear that these proposals will be entirely compatible with business attraction – that a new company, for example, could bring in their own management team from another state without jeopardy to their grant or abatement – and/or that exceptions are allowed for specific skills not readily available within the state.

The essence of these bills, as I indicated previously, is both simple and logical: *take state tax dollars to assist your business – Hire Michigan workers first!*

I would be remiss, of course, if I didn't indicate that on a personal level, I would like all of these workers to be union workers – preferably from one of our AFL-CIO unions; or that they would be paid prevailing or living wages.

But putting that aside, I want to go on record as in strong support of the concept that is the basis of these bills: hire Michigan workers to do the jobs that are funded – at least in part – by Michigan taxpayer dollars.

Michigan workers need jobs / the Michigan economy needs a boost. These bills will support both needs.

Thank your for your efforts so far on behalf of Michigan workers. I encourage passage of the package of bills.

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