



The Voice of Small Business

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Small Business and House Bill 4915

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My name is Charles Owens and I am the State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business, an organization providing legislative advocacy for more than 10,000 Michigan small businesses. Our members represent all sectors of our economy including retail, service, manufacturing, agriculture, financial, construction and others and provide a very accurate cross section of Michigan's economy and small business.

We are here to voice our opposition to HB 4915 that would open up the Michigan Consumer Protection Act (MCPA) and allow the Trial Lawyers to have new opportunities for cause of action against more than eighty business trades and professions already regulated under various state licensing laws. The vast majority of these businesses are small business.

According to the fiscal 2007 (latest data available) Michigan SBA Annual Report, businesses in Michigan with less than 20 employees created 49,972 new jobs while businesses with more than 20 employees lost 40,704 jobs. The same report shows that businesses in Michigan with less than 5 employees created 32,076 or 64.2 percent of the 49,972 jobs created.

Certainly with the economic and budget challenges faced by our state, one would think that this chamber would be looking for ways to foster and grow one of the few bright spots in an otherwise bleak economic landscape. Unfortunately, this bill takes our state in the opposite direction and sends a negative message to small business in our state and to those in other states that might be considering a move to Michigan.

We urge members of this committee not to support this anti-business legislation and consider the hard working small business owners back in their districts trying to meet payroll and provide jobs in our state.

Thank you for your support of small business.