



THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

JACK BRANDENBURG

11TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-7670

FAX: (517) 373-5958

senjbrandenburg@senate.michigan.gov

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter because I wanted you to know that I was ranked the number one conservative vote in the State Senate out of 38 members for the year of 2011. I am proud of this for numerous reasons but, for the sake of space, I will list only two. First, a lot of people in politics say they are one thing, however their voting record indicates otherwise. My feeling is this: If you are going to talk the talk, then walk the walk. Second, being a true conservative is not like being a light switch that goes on and off. It is about doing your job day by day and making decisions that are governed by common sense.

I have long said that we need more conservatives in politics. Why do I feel this way? The answer is because politics is a very challenging business. The years 2012, 13 and 14 will be even more challenging and we must do better! Right now, the task at hand is to rebuild our economy once and for all. Michigan is a very tough place to conduct business and has a terrible reputation for not being business friendly. Do not get me wrong, despite claims by others to the contrary, government does not create jobs. A classic example is our president's Stimulus Program. We are talking about \$787 billion that stimulated nothing. What our state government needs to do is create a regulatory environment that will provide businesses of every size a climate that will enhance growth, turn a profit, create jobs and most importantly, survive. This is on my radar every day.

The absolute best way to grow an economy is to leave as much money as possible in the hands of the taxpayers, who will either invest it or spend it. This translates into job creation. With more people being able to spend and invest, this generates more tax revenue. You achieve this by making government, at all levels, as efficient as possible. Make the tough spending cuts and then enact income tax cuts. This is just basic common sense, and using common sense is what conservatism is all about. Do not spend more than what you have. I learned this when I was about ten years old. However, you would be surprised how many people there are in government, well into their fifties, who just do not comprehend this.


Recently, I introduced legislation that calls for a rollback in our state income tax rate. Our state income tax rate is currently 4.35% and on January 1st, it will drop to 4.25%, and then remain frozen. Every time the rate is reduced by one tenth of a point it is worth \$175 million. My legislation calls for the rate to drop by one tenth of a point, starting January 1st, 2014 and continue to drop at the same rate every year until we have a 3.9% state income tax rate. This will result in a 26% cut in our state income tax rate and a net tax cut of \$700 million over a four year period. Some states do not even have a state income tax. We need to start concentrating on keeping people here.

(continued on back)

Another thing we have to do is concentrate with emphasis on keeping businesses here. I am chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Real soon we are going to start Personal Property Tax Reform for businesses. This is a multi-bill package (I am a sponsor) that will eliminate the tax paid on industrial personal property (machinery, equipment, etc.) by manufacturers and dramatically decrease the tax paid on commercial personal property. This reform is a must and it will have a very positive effect on our economy.

In closing, I always love to hear from people and get feedback. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is my pleasure and my honor to be a State Senator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jack Brandenburg
State Senator, District 11