

# THE JACOBS CAPITOL REPORT

GILDA Z. JACOBS  
MICHIGAN SENATE  
Democratic Caucus Chair  
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

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Contact: Matt Levin  
(248)-943-6975

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## GRANHOLM: FIVE COMPANIES = 1,790 JOBS Projects Generate \$65 Million in New Capital Investment

This week, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced that four companies are expanding in Michigan with assistance from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Additionally, a downtown redevelopment project in Mt. Pleasant is being backed by the MEDC with support from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). In all, the projects are expected to create and retain 1,790 Michigan jobs and involve more than \$65 million in new capital investment.

“We are doing everything we can to grow high-tech companies, and the jobs they provide, here in Michigan,” Gov. Granholm said. “These projects are evidence that our first-class workforce and business-friendly climate make Michigan a place where companies want to locate and do business.”

The five projects announced this week:

- Eaton Corporation plans to invest approximately \$1 million to consolidate its operations in Jackson and secure 1,262 Michigan jobs, including 364 directly by the company. A state tax credit valued at more than \$5.5 million over seven years helped convince the company to consolidate in Michigan over a competing international site. To support the project, the city of Jackson has approved a 15-year Renaissance Redevelopment Zone designation worth \$2.4 million up to 15 years. The MEDC's ability to support Eaton was made possible by changes in the Michigan Economic Growth Authority Act and the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act enacted by the Legislature and signed by Governor Granholm last month.
- Gentz Aerospace Production LLC, commonly known as Gentz Industries, will undertake a \$3.7 million expansion in Warren. The project will create 282 new jobs, including 125 directly by the company. A state tax credit valued at more than \$1.08 million over seven years helped convince the company to expand in Michigan over a competing site in Kansas. The city of Warren has proposed a local tax abatement worth \$413,000 to support the expansion.
- ParkingCarma Inc. will invest \$4.6 million to locate its customer contact center at the Great Lakes Technology Center in Flint. ParkingCarma Inc. was established in 2006 to commercialize the ParkingCarma parking

guidance service that allows drivers to secure parking spaces through cell phones, the Internet or next generation on-board navigation systems. The product was developed by Emeryville, CA-based ACME Innovation in association with AT&T, Bay Area Regional Transportation, CalTrans, Intel, Microsoft, NavTech, Quixote Corporation, Senses (Siemens) and UC Berkeley. The project will create 155 new jobs, including 110 directly by the company. A state tax credit valued at \$979,000 over seven years helped convince the company to choose Michigan instead of competing sites in California and North Carolina.

- Tesla Motors Inc. will invest \$47.7 million to locate a new R&D and engineering center in Rochester Hills. The project will result in the creation of 76 new jobs. A state tax credit valued at \$602,000 over three years convinced Tesla to grow in Michigan over other potential sites in South Carolina. The city of Rochester Hills has proposed a package of incentives estimated at \$14,500 including a job fair for the company, a three-year abatement of the company's personal property taxes and business advisory services through Oakland University. In partnership with Oakland County, Automation Alley has also offered a two-year foundation membership valued at \$30,000.

- City of Mt. Pleasant, in partnership with Central Michigan Development LLC and the Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation, will utilize state and local tax capture valued at \$358,097 to renovate the former Borden Condensing Corporation facility at 320 West Broadway in the city's downtown. The project involves an upgrade of the Borden Building along with new construction. The building renovation will yield 39,000 square feet of commercial office space, for which the primary tenant will be the City of Mt. Pleasant. In addition, new construction of 30,000 square feet on an adjacent property will be devoted to mixed commercial, retail and residential space to be known as the Riverplace on Broadway. The project is expected to generate at least \$8.2 million in capital investment and create 15 new jobs.

"Michigan can help any company in any industry compete and win in today's global economy," MEDC President and CEO James C. Epolito said. "Our unique combination of a business-friendly environment and outstanding workforce definitely give (sic) our state the upper hand when competing for new corporate investment and jobs."

In her 2006 State of the State address, Granholm emphasized the importance of making Michigan a global economic powerhouse in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Since January 2005, the governor and the MEDC have announced the creation or retention of more than 164,000 jobs as a result of targeted assistance provided by the MEDC.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a partnership between the state and local communities, promotes smart economic growth by developing strategies and providing services to create and retain good jobs and a high quality of life. For more information on the MEDC's initiatives and programs, visit the Web site at [www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org).

## CHERRY: ENSURE HPV ACCESSIBILITY BY 2010

### Lt. Gov Wants Cervical Cancer-Prevention Vaccine Available

This week, Lt. Gov. John Cherry called for a cervical cancer-prevention vaccine to be made available to all 6th grade girls by 2010. The call to action is part of a series of recommendations made as part of the governor's Cervical Cancer Report, which was released Wednesday.

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is seen within the medical community as a sure-fire way to prevent women from contracting the cancer later in life. Former Sen. Bev Hammerstrom of Temperance tried to push a law last session to make HPV shots available, but her bill died during intense debate in the House on the final day of lame duck.

Hammerstrom returned to the Capitol this week to join current legislators, along with Department of Community Health (DCH) Director Janet Olszewski, in announcing the cancer prevention agenda.

Senator Deb Cherry (D-Burton) will re-introduce the Hammerstrom bills this session. Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) will be a co-sponsor and serve as the point person in getting the bills passed through the Senate Health Policy Committee to the full Senate.

Lt. Gov. Cherry also is recommending DCH work with the state's Cancer Consortium to find ways to reduce disparities in cervical cancer while developing a program to increase pap testing rates among enrollees.

Olszewski suggested that Michigan should require that all publicly funded programs adopt the national recommendation for the HPV vaccine. "The task force has clearly outlined a comprehensive blueprint that will allow us to significantly reduce the incidence of cervical cancer over the long term," she said. "We believe embracing the recommendations contained in the report will help to prevent cervical cancer and save thousands of lives that are ended needlessly by this disease."

The task force was composed of representatives of the American Cancer Society, health care providers, state government officials, legislators and others.

The National Lieutenant Governors Association has selected cervical cancer

awareness as their public issue campaign for 2007. The program, "Ending Cervical Cancer in Our Lifetime," will make thousands of free educational packets available to help Michigan citizens better understand the risks associated with cervical cancer.

Rep. Kate Ebli (D-Frenchtown), a cancer survivor, issued a press release touting the importance of early detection and how it can save lives. Ms. Ebli was diagnosed with breast cancer after a mammogram showed an abnormal reading in 2004.

"More than 100 women died of cervical cancer in 2004," she said. "If it weren't for preventative medicine, I wouldn't have been able to beat cancer. By reaching out, promoting preventative measures and educating our daughters, sisters, mothers and aunts, we can eliminate this needless disease and create a safer and healthier Michigan."

### SENATE/HOUSE FISCAL FORECASTS DIM Expect Economic Weakness to Continue

Michigan's economic outlook for 2007 and 2008 remains weak, according to the Senate and House Fiscal Agencies. Unemployment is expected to increase significantly as motor vehicle sales slightly decline. Those factors alone will hurt revenues for both the remainder of the current fiscal year and the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Revenues for 2007-08 will suffer significantly if a replacement for the Single Business Tax (SBT) is not agreed upon.

Even if a revenue-neutral replacement for the SBT is enacted, 2007-08 revenues would only increase by 1.4 to 1.5 percent, less than the projected increase in inflation.

The forecast means more tough choices for Governor Granholm, who has been faced with poor revenues since she took office. "The governor understands that resolving these budget problems is crucial in determining how we can grow and transform our economy, and it is vital that we make the right decisions in order to maintain Michigan's high quality of life," said Senator Gilda Jacobs.

The Legislature will play a crucial role in deciding how the state emerges from this budget hole.

### WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . . Quotables

"You can never have enough garlic. With enough garlic, you can eat The New

York Times.”  
-Morley Safer

“Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.”  
-Gore Vidal

Quote of the Week: Winston Churchill

“A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn’t happen.”

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photo: Senator Jacobs taking her oath of office last week.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Campaign & Election Oversight Committee. She also serves on the Finance, Economic Development & Regulatory Reform, and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at  
[sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov)  
or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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