

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Gleason Press Release

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## **Senator Gleason Fights to Ensure the Hiring of Michigan Workers is Part of Every State-Funded Economic Development Project**

LANSING—Last Wednesday, Senator John Gleason (D-Flushing) offered an amendment to Senate Bill 239, a \$163.529 million appropriation for the Michigan Strategic Fund budget, that will require the fund to only award tax breaks and other economic development incentives to companies that employ 100% Michigan workers. The proposal, which garnered bipartisan support, also creates a sliding scale for state incentives in which a company that employs 100% Michigan workers is more likely to get a tax break than one that employs less than that.

“I am all for increasing and incentivizing economic development in the state,” said Sen. Gleason. “But we don’t just want products to say ‘Made in Michigan,’ we want them to be made *by* Michigan. Attracting new business in the state should not only bring an influx of money into the economy, but into the pockets of the people.”

In the midst of a marathon State Senate session that included much partisan push-and-pull, Sen. Gleason struck a chord on both sides of the aisle and bridged the party gap on SB 239 by asserting that employing Michigan workers is as essential to the state economy as locating a business here is. The budget passed 23-15 with bipartisan support, and Gleason’s initiative had unanimous backing.

The day after his amendment passed, Gleason was in Marysville to attend a rally protesting out-of-state hires at the new Marysville Ethanol Plant. The “Local Jobs, Local Workers” rally was organized by Concerned Citizens of Michigan to protest out of state workers being hired for construction jobs at the plant. The Marysville Plant has been granted Agricultural Processing Renaissance Zone status and will receive \$2 million in tax abatements as approved by the Michigan State Administrative Board.

“The local unemployment lines are growing longer while there are rows of out of state plates parked at the Marysville site,” Gleason said. “If we’re going to turn our economy around, and offer state money to help do so, businesses should be putting Michigan workers to work, from laying the first cornerstone in construction to the production and sale of their product.”

Visit <http://www.senate.mi.gov/gleason/play.php?id=71> to view Gleason’s floor statement from Wednesday.

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