

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Schauer Commends Team Effort on Bills to Help Attract Jobs to Jackson

Governor signs SmartZone legislation today, which could stimulate economic development and additional investment

LANSING – State Senator **Mark Schauer** (D-Battle Creek) today joined Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, several colleagues, and a number of local leaders as bipartisan legislation to increase the number of SmartZone designations in the state was signed into law. The bills, SB 1203 (Richardville) and HB 5609 (Simpson) give the city of Jackson an opportunity to compete for one of three new SmartZones, which could help stimulate the growth of technology-based businesses and jobs.

"Jackson is ready to generate jobs and become an investment magnet in south central Michigan," Schauer said. "We have the resources, dedicated community leaders, and now the state incentives to help lure businesses to the area. The local support and commitment from officials on both sides of the aisle is a good example of getting things done for our economy by working together."

State Representative Mike Simpson (D-Jackson), sponsor of HB 5609, is pleased his bill has become law and that his community has the opportunity to possibly become one of Michigan's new SmartZones.

"If designated a SmartZone, Jackson could attract high-tech jobs and economic development to our community," said State Representative Mike Simpson (D-Jackson). "This is an exciting opportunity because it sends a message to job providers around the world that we're open for business."

According to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), SmartZones provide distinct geographical locations where technology-based firms, entrepreneurs and researchers can locate in close proximity to all of the community assets that will assist in their endeavors. The program strives to challenge high-tech "hot spots" such as California's Silicon Valley, Route 128 in Massachusetts, and the North Carolina Research Triangle.

"SmartZones are one more tool we can use to grow our economy and create jobs," said Governor Granholm. "I applaud Senator Schauer for his leadership in bringing this bipartisan proposal to my desk."

Jackson leaders present at today's signing in Lansing included Dr. Salah Huwais, David Hockenbrocht, John Crist, Dan Phelan, Allen Spiess Jr., and Karen Dunigan.

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