



December 15, 2011

Governor Rick Snyder  
P.O Box 3013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

We, the undersigned Federal, State, and Local elected officials representing the City of Detroit and other impacted jurisdictions, write to express our concerns regarding Michigan's Emergency Manager Law, its prior applications, and its possible pending application to the City of Detroit. We would respectfully request a meeting with you at your earliest possible convenience prior to your Administration taking any further legal actions under the Emergency Manager Law.

Thus far the Emergency Manager Law has been applied to the cities of Benton Harbor, Ecorse, Flint, Hamtramck, Highland Park, and Pontiac; the Village of Three Oaks; and the public school system in Detroit and Inkster. Application is also pending in the City of Allen Park. Although we come to this matter from a variety of differing perspectives and ideologies, we all share in the belief that applications of the Emergency Manager Law have the potential to irreparably and irreversibly undermine both voting and collective bargaining rights in our State. Democracy is the cornerstone of our Nation and the fundamental principle upon which all of our other rights and liberties are premised. It therefore goes without saying that any effort to unilaterally appoint an unelected individual in place of an elected Mayor, Council and other officials raises considerable questions about our State's commitment to that principle.

We also have a particular concern that the Emergency Manager law may be being disproportionately applied to disenfranchise persons of color. As a matter of fact, it is our understanding if you choose to appoint an Emergency Manager to oversee Detroit, that would mean that approximately 50% of all of the African American citizens in the State would be living under the authority of unelected managers.

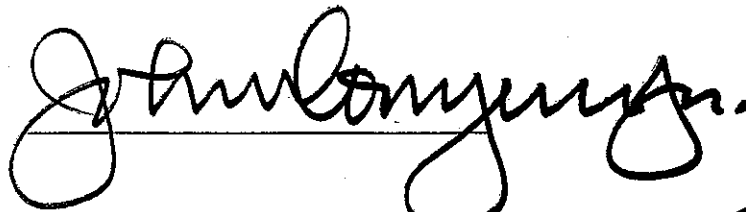
We would also note our serious concern that your Administration may be pursuing additional stop-gap legislation in an effort to thwart any voter led initiative seeking to revoke the underlying Emergency Manager Law. If true, that would mean that not only would voters in covered jurisdictions be unable to elect their own representatives, but voters state wide would be prevented from using the initiative process to best reflect their own views and judgments.

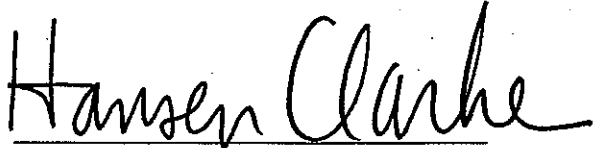
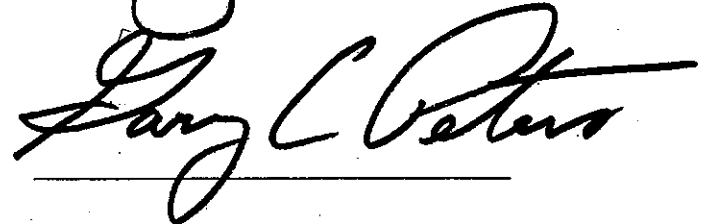
In terms of collective bargaining rights, we would simply observe that our State is one where collective bargaining rights have been hard fought and long cherished. The thought that an unelected bureaucrat would have the power to unilaterally terminate collective bargaining agreements outside a court of law is legally troubling and morally alarming. We are aware of no precedent where such broad and unchecked authority has been granted to a single unelected individual in any other State.

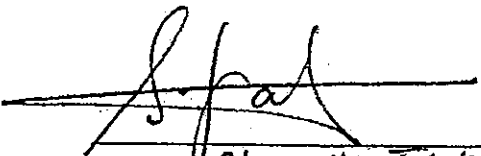
The purpose of our letter is not to necessarily challenge the underlying legality or constitutionality of the Emergency Manager Law – that is well covered in pending legal actions and a letter from Rep. Conyers to the U.S. Attorney General. Rather, the purpose of our proposed meeting with you is to discuss and highlight issues with regard to the public policy aspects of the Emergency Manager Law and the manner it is being applied to our constituents.

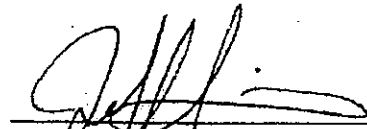
All of us appreciate the depths and complexity of the financial problems facing Detroit and the other jurisdictions impacted by the Emergency Manager Law. We are also aware that the crisis is itself part of a constellation of interrelated budget and legal issues, including whether and the extent the State itself may not be bearing its financial responsibility to Detroit and other covered jurisdictions. Given the significance, the stakes, and the sui generis nature of this matter, we believe your meeting with the duly elected representatives of the people whose everyday lives would be impacted by your decisions would best serve the interests of all parties.


Sincerely,

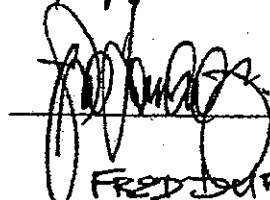
Handwritten signature of John Conyers in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.


Handwritten signature of Hansen Clarke in cursive script, positioned to the left of a horizontal line.  
Handwritten signature of Gary C. Peters in cursive script, positioned to the right of a horizontal line.

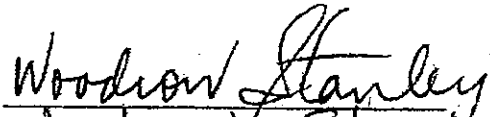
  
SHANELLE JACKSON

  
Jeff Irwin

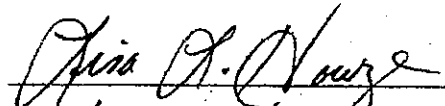
  
ALBERTA TINSLEY TINSLEY


  
FRED DURHAL, JR.

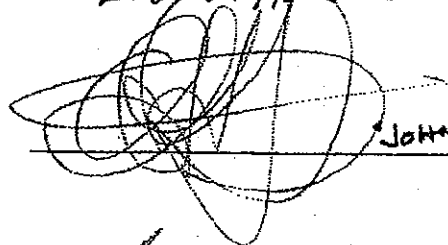
  
Ellen Cogen Lipton

  
WOODROW STANLEY

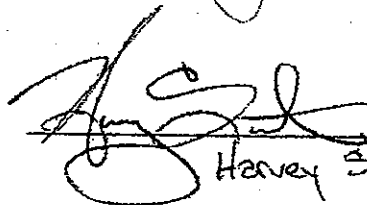
  
MAUREEN L. STAPLETON


  
Lisa A. Houze

  
Brandon Dillon

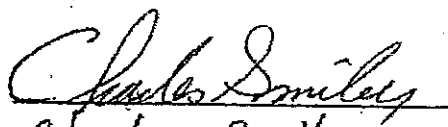
  
JOHN OWEN

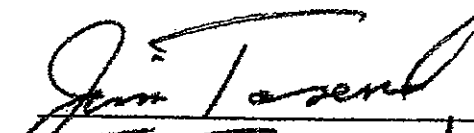
  
THOMAS F. STALLWORTH III

  
Harvey Bentzen

  
Douglas A. Geiss

  
James Annett

  
Charles Smiley

  
Jim Townsend

Vicki Barnett

VICKI BARNETT

Lundy Bledsoe

Lundy Bledsoe

Jean Bauer

Jean Bauer

David E. Rutledge

DAVID E. RUTLEDGE

Bob Constan

Bob Constan

Marcia Honey Wright

Marcia Honey Wright

Richard Hammel

Richard Hammel

Rudolph Hobbs Jr.

Rudolph Hobbs Jr.

Jimmy Wemack

Jimmy Wemack

Rashida Traib

RASHIDA TRAI B

Stella Lindberg

STELLA LINDBERG 109

Stacy Emira Oakes

STACY Emira Oakes

Mark S. Meadows

MARK S. MEADOWS

Barb Byrum

Barb Byrum  
HD 67

George T. Darany

George T. Darany

Sean McCann

SEAN MCCANN

Wainwright Lane 31  
Wainwright Lane

David E. Nathan  
David E. Nathan

Andrew Kondras (13)

Andrew Kondras (13)  
Andrew Kondras (13)

Charles M. Brunner  
CHARLES M. BRUNNER

Jon Switalski  
Jon Switalski

Lisa Brown  
Lisa Brown

Lesia Liss 28th District  
Lesia Liss 28th District

Kate Segal  
Kate Segal

Diana Stover  
Diana Stover

R. LeBlanc  
R. LeBlanc

Paul D. Clemente  
PAUL D. CLEMENTE

Virgil Smith  
Virgil Smith

Tupac A. Hunter  
Tupac A. Hunter

John Gleason  
John Gleason

Morris W. Hood III  
Morris W. Hood III

Coleridge  
Coleridge

Vincent Gregory  
Vincent Gregory

Glenn S. Anderson  
Glenn S. Anderson

Bert Johnson  
BERT JOHNSON

Roy Schmidt  
Roy Schmidt

Harold L. Haugh  
HAROLD L. HAUGH

Steven Bieder  
Steven Bieder

Kenneth K...

J. H.

Leo R.

Henry V. C.

Brenda J.

Janet Watson

Samuel Jenkins

A. H.

Signatories:

United States House of Representatives

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (MI-14)

Congressman Hansen Clarke (MI-13)

Congressman Gary Peters (MI-09)

Michigan State Legislature

Shanelle Jackson, Michigan State Representative

Jeff Irwin, Michigan State Representative

Alberta Tinsley Talabi, Michigan State Representative

Frederick C. Durhal, Jr., Michigan State Representative

Ellen Cogen Lipton, Michigan State Representative

Woodrow Stanley, Michigan State Representative

Maureen L. Stapleton, Michigan State Representative

Lisa Howze, Michigan State Representative

Brandon Dillon, Michigan State Representative

John Olumba, Michigan State Representative

Thomas L. Stallworth, III, Michigan State Representative

Harvey Santana, Michigan State Representative

Douglas A. Geiss, Michigan State Representative

James Ananich, Michigan State Representative

Charles Smiley, Michigan State Representative

Jim Townsend, Michigan State Representative

Vicki Barnett, Michigan State Representative



James Womack, Michigan House of Representatives

Timothy Bledsoe, Michigan State Representative

Rashida Tlaib, Michigan State Representative

Joan Bauer, Michigan State Representative

Steven Lindberg, Michigan State Representative

David Rutledge, Michigan State Representative

Stacy Erwin Oakes, Michigan State Representative

Bob Constan, Michigan State Representative

Mark S. Meadows, Michigan State Representative

Marcia Hovey-Wright, Michigan State Representative

Barb Byrum, Michigan State Representative

Richard E. Hammel, Michigan State Representative

George T. Darany, Michigan State Representative

Rudolph Hobbs, Jr., Michigan State Representative

Sean McCann, Michigan State Representative

Marilyn Lane, Michigan State Representative

David E. Nathan, Michigan State Representative

Phil Cavanagh, Michigan State Representative

Andrew J. Kandrevas, Michigan State Representative

Charles M. Brunner, Michigan State Representative

Jon M. Switalski, Michigan State Representative

Lisa Brown, Michigan State Representative

Lesia Liss, Michigan State Representative

Kate Segal, Michigan State Representative

Dian Slavens, Michigan State Representative

Richard LeBlanc, Michigan State Representative  
Paul D. Clemente, Michigan State Representative  
Virgil Smith, Michigan State Senator  
Tupac A. Hunter, Michigan State Senator  
John Gleason, Michigan State Senator  
Morris W. Hood, Michigan State Senator  
Coleman Young, II, Michigan State Senator  
Vincent Gregory, Michigan State Senator  
Glenn S. Anderson, Michigan State Senator  
Bert Johnson, Michigan State Senator  
Roy Schmidt, Michigan State Representative  
Harold L. Haugh, Michigan State Representative  
Steven M. Bieda, Michigan State Senator

Detroit City Council

Kwame Kenyetta, Detroit City Council Member  
James Tate, Detroit City Council Member  
Charles Pugh, Detroit City Council President  
Kenneth V. Cockrel, Jr., Detroit City Council Member  
Brenda Jones, Detroit City Council Member  
JoAnn Watson, Detroit City Council Member  
Saunteel Jenkins, Detroit City Council Member  
Andre Spivey, Detroit City Council Member