



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.

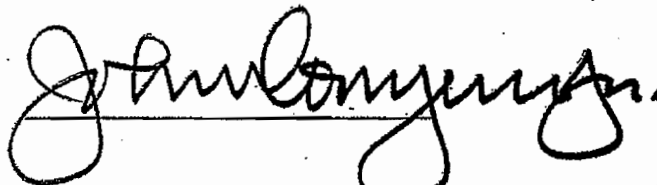
We would also note our serious concern that your Administration may be pursuing additional stop-gap legislation in an effort to thwart any voter led initiative seeking to revoke the underlying Emergency Manager Law. If true, that would mean that not only would voters in covered jurisdictions be unable 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.

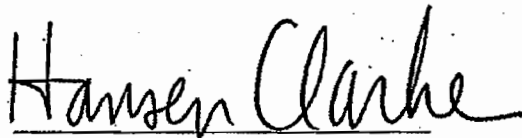
In terms of collective bargaining rights, we would simply observe that our State is one where collective bargaining rights have been hard fought and long cherished. The thought that an unelected bureaucrat would have the power to unilaterally terminate collective bargaining agreements outside a court 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.

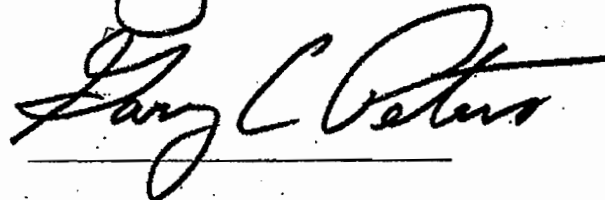
The purpose of our letter is not to necessarily challenge the underlying legality or constitutionality of the Emergency Manager Law – that is well covered in pending legal actions and a letter from Rep. Conyers to the U.S. Attorney General. Rather, the purpose of our proposed meeting with you is to discuss 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.

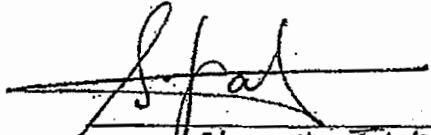
All of us appreciate the depths and complexity of the financial problems facing Detroit and the other jurisdictions impacted by the Emergency Manager Law. We are also aware that the crisis is itself part of a constellation of interrelated budget and legal issues, including whether and the extent the 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.

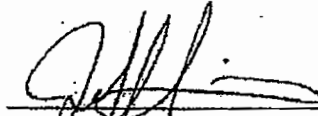
Sincerely,

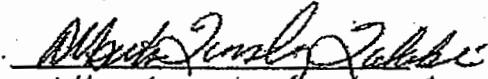


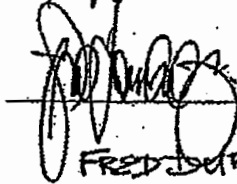




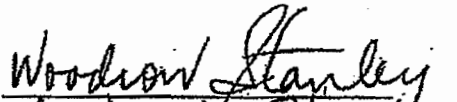
  
SHARELLE JACKSON

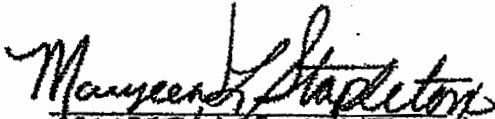
  
Jeff Irwin

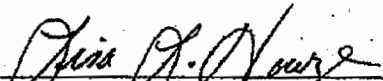
  
Alberta Tinsley Tinsley


  
FRED DURHAL, JR.

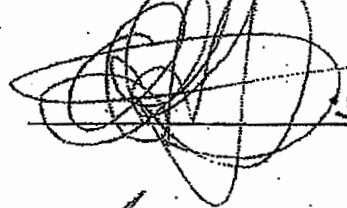
  
Ellen Cogen Lipton

  
Woodrow Stanley

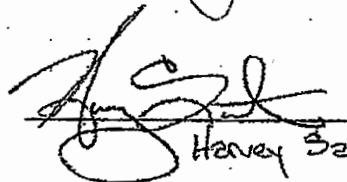
  
MAURCEN L. STAPLETON

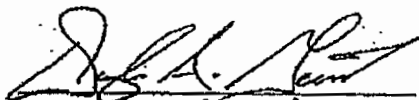
  
Lisa A. Noyce

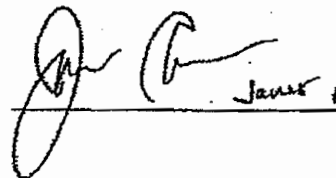
  
Brendon Dillon

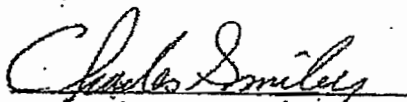
  
JOHN DUMAS


  
THOMAS F. STALWORTH III

  
Harvey Bentzen

  
Douglas A. Geiss

  
James Bennett

  
Charles Smiley

  
Jim Townsend

Vicki Barnett  
VICKI BARNETT

Timothy Bledsoe  
Timothy Bledsoe

Joan Bauer  
Joan 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 Womack  
Jimmy Womack

Rashida Traig  
RASHIDA TRAI

Steve Lindberg  
STEVE LINDBERG 109

Nancy Emira Oakes  
NANCY EMIRA OAKES

Mark S. Meadows  
MARK S. MEADOWS

Barb Byrum  
Barb Byrum

George T. Darany  
George T. Darany

Sean McCann  
SEAN MCCANN

Walter L. Lane  
Walter L. Lane 31

David E. Nathan  
David E. Nathan

Andrew Kardavas  
Andrew Kardavas (13)

Andrew Kardavas  
Andrew Kardavas (13)

Charles M. Brunner  
CHARLES M. BRUNNER

Jon Switalski  
Jon Switalski

Lisa Brown  
Lisa Brown

Lesia Liss  
Lesia Liss 282 District

Kate Segal  
Kate Segal

Dean Stover  
Dean 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

Colerain Young II  
Colerain Young II

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 Breda  
Steven Breda

~~Kenneth Keating~~

J. H.

Clara R.

Robert V. Cole

Brenda Jones

Janneetson

Laurel 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