

Sander Levin

12th District, Michigan

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 15, 2011

The Honorable Rick Snyder
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

As Chair of the State Senate Labor Committee, I wrote the Public Employment Relations Act and, as you know, Governor George Romney signed that ground-breaking legislation into law nearly 50 years ago.

The right to collectively bargain changed public sector workers' lives for the better – just as it had done to the lives of their private sector counterparts only years earlier. We are proud in Michigan of our heritage of putting the nation on wheels and building a strong middle class.

Now is not the time to turn our back on that history. We should instead be building on it, and working in collaboration to revitalize our economy and re-tool our public institutions to face head on the budget crisis brought on by this deep and long recession.

I am deeply concerned by the constitutional issues embedded in the Emergency Financial Manager law, and the way in which it is being implemented throughout the urban areas in our State. I also think it is ill-advised for the State Legislature to attempt to pre-empt the efforts of an ongoing ballot initiative.

I fully appreciate the fiscal problems facing the City of Detroit which reverberate throughout the entire region and State, but I believe the current course of your Administration threatens to undermine voting and collective bargaining rights and disenfranchise the citizens of our State.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my concerns, and I stand ready to work with you on any issue that moves our State forward.

Sincerely,


Sander Levin

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