



February 18, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

We write to highlight the critical partnership between the State of Michigan and the City of Lansing, with a particular focus on the importance of supporting and revitalizing downtown Lansing. The vitality of our capital city is directly linked to the presence and activity of state employees, and the ongoing remote work policies continue to impact hundreds of small businesses that rely on a steady customer base.

The State of Michigan has recently made a significant investment of \$100 million into downtown Lansing, underscoring its commitment to the region's growth and sustainability. Now is the time to generate a return on this investment by ensuring that state employees return to in-person work, contributing to the economic stability of the area. Key developments such as the New Vision Lansing housing projects, the new Lansing City Hall, the redevelopment of the current Lansing City Hall, The Ovation Center for Music & Arts, and the continuous enhancement of the riverfront all depend on a robust and active downtown workforce.

Additionally, the \$11 million rebuild of Michigan Avenue is set to strengthen the connectivity between the State Capitol, small businesses, healthcare institutions, East Lansing, and Michigan State University. This transformation will further enhance the appeal and functionality of our capital, but its success hinges on a thriving downtown workforce.

To fully realize the benefits of these strategic investments, we urge your office to implement a unified approach to bringing state employees back to in-person work. A consistent and well-structured return-to-office policy will not only ensure the best use of state resources but will also serve as a catalyst for downtown Lansing's resurgence, benefiting businesses, employees, and residents alike.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Michigan's economic success. We look forward to working together to ensure a vibrant and prosperous future for our capital city and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman  
President & CEO  
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce

Julie Pingston  
President & CEO  
Choose Lansing