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Bernero Urges Snyder to Join Him in Fighting for Michigan Small Businesses

LANSING, MI – Today gubernatorial candidate Virg Bernero asked his opponent in the race for governor to join him in a bipartisan effort to help Michigan's small businesses. Bernero is encouraging Republican candidate Rick Snyder to co-sign a letter to Congress to end a partisan stalemate and pass legislation that would help unlock lending for entrepreneurs in Michigan and across the country.

Making it easier to start and grow a small business on Michigan Main Streets has been a signature issue for Bernero throughout his campaign for governor, just as it has been a top priority for him in Lansing for years. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce endorsed Bernero in all of his races for mayor and endorsed him in the gubernatorial primary based on his record of supporting Lansing businesses. Bernero has a plan to create a Main Street Bank that would work with small, local community lenders to provide low-interest loans for Michigan small businesses. Last week he announced that as governor he would cut state business with major Wall Street banks that were not lending here.

"The number one obstacle to job creation in Michigan is that Wall Street banks are not lending to our entrepreneurs," said Bernero. "Supporting small businesses should not be a partisan issue. I think it would send a great message to Washington if Mr. Snyder would join me in a bipartisan way to encourage Congress stop playing political games and act."

Sagar Sheth, owner and president of Moebius Technologies, a small medical contract manufacturer in Lansing, knows firsthand how Wall Street's redlining of Michigan is preventing job growth here. Despite having good credit, a solid business plan, and purchase orders in hand, his company was denied access to credit. However, the company moved jobs from Canada into Michigan after Lansing's Economic Development Corporation provided it the loan it needed.

"Moebius is a growing company with good credit and customers ready to work with us, still we could not get financing simply because we chose to invest in Michigan," said Sheth. "When you have business people wanting and able to create jobs, but they can't do business in our state, how can we ever reduce unemployment? Fortunately, Mayor Bernero stepped up and his EDC was able to extend the credit we needed to move jobs from Canada back into Michigan."

The Small Business Jobs and Credit Act has earned the support of more than 100 business groups, including traditional G.O.P. allies such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business., as well as the National Small Business Association, Small Business Majority, the National Association of Realtors, and the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

Under the proposed plan pending before Congress, the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act, small businesses could access capital from a small business lending fund at low interest rates. Working with small, local community lenders, a thirty billion dollar government investment would leverage up to \$300 billion in private sector small businesses lending. Because the government's investment earns interest, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimate projects that this plan will also reduce the deficit by one billion dollars. Congressman Gary Peters of Michigan was one of the plans' chief architects.

It was [widely reported](#) that Members of Congress from both parties support passage of the plan contained in the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act, but that the bill stalled in the Senate over a dispute on the number of amendments that were to be offered—Republicans wanted four amendments to be voted on, while Democrats wanted only three. At an impasse, Congress went on recess for the month of August. The letter Bernero is asking Snyder to co-sign asks Congress to make passing a small business lending plan its first order of business when they return from their break next week.

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