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The Feedback File

Take it from Michigan's nonprofits, cutting EITC would be devastating

The economic gains made in southeast Michigan while recovering from the recession of the previous decade would not have been as profound without the help of the nonprofit sector, an important contributor to growth and sustainability.

Metro Detroit had 14,155 nonprofits in 2013 and held assets in excess of \$137 billion, according to a report commissioned by the Michigan Nonprofit Association. In the third quarter of 2013, metro Detroit nonprofits employed more than 180,000 people, paying more than \$2 billion in wages.

Yet, the past few years have not been easy for nonprofits. They have been called on to do more with less while serving as the safety

net for families and individuals as the economy began to show improvements. Nonprofits are at the core of the area's infrastructure, with the ability to see and interpret what is happening at the grassroots community level as well as at the policymaking and stakeholder levels. They offer insights not only as service providers, but as change agents in the economic health of the region.

It's with this perspective and knowledge that the Michigan Nonprofit Association opposes road funding proposals that threaten the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Eliminating the EITC would raise taxes on people who work but struggle to get by because of low wages, and it would hurt local economies

statewide. It would also raise taxes on nearly 800,000 households, reducing the chances of success for more than a million children and particularly hurting families at or near the poverty line.

The strength and health of our nonprofits are one of the biggest reasons for this region's economic turnaround and will continue to be an asset in rebuilding the economy locally and statewide. We ask that nonprofits continue to have a seat and a say at the table as businesses, stakeholders and policymakers plan the economic future of our region.

Donna Murray-Brown
President & CEO, Michigan Nonprofit Association