



For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Adler Shanteau
248-862-1016

Build Southeast Michigan:
Creating Prosperity Through Commercial and Residential Development

Farmington Hills, Mich. – July 1, 2008 – Hard work, innovation, dedication and self-determination describe the spirit of Michigan’s workforce. From the youngest engineer to the oldest laborer, Michigan workers have demonstrated time and again their ability to overcome adversity to create a bright economic future.

With this spirit of innovation and productivity in mind, **Build Southeast Michigan** has been launched, bringing together major forces from across the nine county region’s commercial and residential development, construction, real estate and property management industries. “The purpose of the partnership is simple,” explained Janet Langlois-Resto and Michael Stoskopf, co-chairs of the new partnership. “Create economic prosperity through commercial and residential development supported by an action-oriented advocacy forum at local, county and state levels with respect to codes, legislation, taxes and incentives.”

Current Build Southeast Michigan members include, in alphabetical order: Apartment Association of Michigan (AAM), Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA), Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA), Construction Association of Michigan (CAM), Institute for Real Estate Management (IREM), International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), Livingston County Home Builders Association (HBALC), Michigan Association of Realtors (MAR), Monroe County Home Builders Association, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) and Washtenaw County HBA.

While recently suffering as the result of broader economic influences, the partnership's members still represent nearly 11,000 companies employing over 370,000 individuals. These employees inject over \$18 billion into the southeast Michigan economy each year. "The majority of businesses represented are small, family-owned businesses, many of which have been integral to this region for several generations." noted Richard Ives, President of the BIA.

The first goal of the coalition is to work with state legislators and the Governor to reduce the negative impact of the Michigan Business Tax (MBT), a key issue facing each of the partnership's members. "For our region to move into a new economic era requires investment, development and construction," proposed Paula Goldman-Spinner, President of BOMA-Detroit. "Just as tax incentives have created a movie industry in Michigan virtually overnight, MBT revisions and incentives geared toward the development, construction and real estate industries will quickly jump-start another major sector of our economy."

The partnership's first significant action is a legislative reception where leaders from each Build Southeast Michigan member organization will meet with state legislators from southeast Michigan's nine county region. At the reception, the partnership will introduce several ideas aimed at providing viable alternatives for revising the MBT to create new economic growth when it is needed most.

For additional information on Build Southeast Michigan and its member partners, please contact Michael Stoskopf at 248-737-4477 or Janet Langlois-Resto at 248-848-3714.

#