



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

June 17, 2008

Mr. Lawrence W. Reed, President  
Mackinac Center for Public Policy  
140 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 568  
Midland, MI 48640-0568

Dear Mr. Reed:

I have received copies of the letters you have sent to various state departments regarding transparency and the "Show Michigan the Money" web site created by the Mackinac Center. Rather than each department responding individually, I am responding on behalf of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's Executive Branch, departments, and agencies in state government.

Since taking office, Governor Jennifer Granholm has made government transparency and fiscal accountability defining principles of Michigan state government. From eliminating no-bid contracts to putting those contracts online, the Executive Branch has continued to promote transparency in state government. Expenditure information was placed online early in the Granholm administration, now housed in one single web site found at [www.michigan.gov/spending](http://www.michigan.gov/spending).

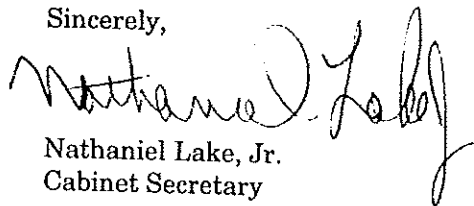
Because this accountability information is already online through the state's web site, we will not be participating in the "Show Michigan the Money" project in favor of using our limited resources to maintain and update the information on Michigan.gov. Please feel free to include the link to Michigan's accountability site on your web site.

Michigan's accountability site ([www.michigan.gov/spending](http://www.michigan.gov/spending)) provides department-by-department expenditure data, as well as a complete listing of all state contracts, job specifications and wage rates, the executive budget, and financial reports for the Office of the Budget. The site does not go to the level of detail to provide individual employee names and expenses and salaries, as this level of detail provides little value to the taxpayer.

As you know, developing a site that fully replicates the Missouri Accountability Portal would be cost-prohibitive for Michigan at this time, due to the technology limitations of long-standing legacy environments, including the state's financial system (MAIN).

We remain committed to making government information conveniently accessible and we strongly support both accountability and accessibility. We are continually exploring new opportunities and ideas for expanding citizen access to government services and information.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Lake, Jr.  
Cabinet Secretary