

## Granholms State of the State Address Highlights

Governor Jennifer Granholm delivered her sixth State of the State Address to a packed out House chamber of legislators and guests on January 29, 2008. The focus of her speech was one of hope and a new beginning for Michigan. She spoke of a better time in the future for the Great Lakes State. The governor addressed the prosperity that lies in tourism and alternative energy and of hope for financial security to reappear in the State.

The Michigan Governor stressed four key factors in achieving the state's goal of reviving itself. First, getting on board in industries like tourism and alternative energy so that there can be a job for every worker in Michigan. Next, as always, affordable health care for every family in Michigan was a resounding point. She also spoke of the importance of safety in Michigan. She went on to specify the value of safe places for children to play and for people to work. Lastly, she addressed the significance of quality education for both children and adults.

Governor Granholm highlighted the progress that the legislative and executive branches have made together, but she also spoke of the disappointment that the citizens of Michigan had in their state government. She stressed the impact that the slow budget process had on the state in 2007, and she called for more divisive action in the future.

Later in the speech she outlined to the legislature what she hopes their agenda for 2008 will be. Included in her legislative wish list would be: protecting homeowners by passing foreclosure protection laws; protecting the great lakes from pollution with further environmental regulation; and a dramatic increase in advertising for the state as a way to further Michigan's potential as a tourism state.

It is fairly clear that many of Governor Granholm's hopes for the State of Michigan are in the areas of tourism and alternative energy. Her ambition to get Michigan back on track, economically will be greatly affected by her ability to work with legislative leaders and the ability of the state government as a whole to cross party lines as citizens who care about their state's future rather than politicians seeking dollar signs and reelection.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need further information, please call your association's government relations director, Vanessa Crocetto at 517-327-9207.