

September 8, 2014

VIA COURIER SERVICE WITH CONFIRMED DELIVERY RECEIPT

Mr. Richard Baird
Executive Office of the Governor
Romney Building
111 South Capitol Avenue
2nd Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Mr. Baird,

I am in receipt of your September 4 letter to me and Stephen Henderson of the Detroit Free Press and your September 6 letter to me and to the Lansing State Journal and Gannett Co., Inc.

On behalf of the Michigan State AFL-CIO, I have no intention of retracting the opinion column published in the Detroit Free Press and the Lansing State Journal.

After your many years in the private sector, and your initial status as a privately-funded contractor while conducting public business in Michigan,¹ perhaps you are not familiar with the transparency and accountability expected of public officials who are paid by Michigan taxpayers.

Rick Snyder, as you know, raised taxes on every working person in Michigan by increasing the state income tax.² He also imposed extra burdens on retirees with a new pension tax,³ and on working families by reducing the Earned Income Tax Credit.⁴

Rich, you're entitled to your own opinion on these issues. You're not entitled to my opinion. My opinion is that officials of an administration that has raised taxes on so many Michigan working families should pay their own taxes, in full and on time.

Sincerely,



Karla Swift, President
Michigan State AFL-CIO

cc: Governor Rick Snyder
Stephen Henderson, Detroit Free Press
Stephanie Angel, Lansing State Journal
Elaine Kulhanek, Lansing State Journal
Gracia Martore, Gannett Co.

¹ ["Gov. Snyder's NERD Fund pays salary of adviser Baird and for internship program, spokeswoman says,"](#) Detroit Free Press, July 5, 2013

² ["Michigan residents hit hard by tax increases,"](#) Associated Press, Feb. 16 2013

³ ["Snyder defends tax on pensions, downplays \\$1.8B tax cut to businesses,"](#) Detroit News, Sept. 5, 2014

⁴ ["Tax shift creates big winners, big losers,"](#) Port Huron Times Herald, Sept. 6, 2014