

LANSING, Mich., July 9, 2018 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Michigan Chamber of Commerce today issued the following ~~statement to set the record straight on the debate over the redistricting ballot proposal.~~ **spin** **avoid taking blame for trying to stop the vote on the anti-gerrymandering ballot measure.**

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is a statewide ~~business organization representing approximately 6,600 employers, trade associations and local chambers of commerce. The Michigan Chamber represents businesses of every size and type in all 83 counties of the state. The Michigan Chamber was established in 1959 to be an advocate for Michigan's job providers in the legislative, political and legal process.~~ **dark money front group for big corporations, including a Canadian oil giant.** **special interests and provide corporations undue influence in the political process**

“The proposed redistricting ballot proposal would ~~drastically rewrite Michigan's Constitution to change the basic foundation of state governing structure by removing the independent redistricting commission, so self-interested politicians can't redraw their voice of the Governor, Legislature and Courts in the redistricting process, replacing three branches of government with a randomly drawn 13 member commission that would be unelected and unaccountable,~~ **end gerrymandering in Michigan** **creating an** **put a politically balanced** **the people, so politicians stop** said Jim Holcomb, Executive Vice President & General Counsel for the Michigan Chamber. “The ballot proposal would also ~~place an inordinate amount of power in the hands of a partisan Secretary of State, thus favoring one political party over the other and generating divisive partisanship, public discontent and distrust of the electoral process.”~~

“Proponents of the redistricting proposal have ~~failed to meet the clear requirements set forth in state law and the Michigan Constitution to qualify for the ballot,~~ **developed this proposal with Michigan's best legal experts**” added Holcomb. ~~“This sweeping rewrite of the State Constitution requires convening a Constitutional Convention.”~~

The measure qualified for the ballot by collecting signatures from 425,000 people in Michigan

As a state appeals court just ruled, this is not true

“The concerns of the Chamber are shared by ~~many individuals and groups and form the basis of a legal challenge filed by Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring plans to alter the State Constitution are legally valid,~~ **a handful of big corporations, lobbyists and establishment politicians** **a Chamber funded dark money group** **disenfranchising more than 7 million Michigan voters**” Holcomb continued.

“We need more citizen participation in the public policy arena, not less,” said Michigan Chamber President & CEO Rich Studley. “Removing the input of ~~three branches of government~~ ^{partisan politicians} from the process and empowering 13 randomly drawn ~~unelected and unaccountable individuals bound by no standards~~ ^{citizen public servants} is ~~not~~ the best way to determine how future districts are drawn after the next census.”

^{It's refreshing that} “Unfortunately, in the middle of a respectful debate between Michiganders over a ~~lengthy and complicated~~ ^{smart} ~~rewrite~~ ^{and timely addition} to our State Constitution, ~~an out-of-state activist group~~ ^{thousands of people*} inserted ~~itself into the mix and is spreading false and misleading information in a way that is damaging to civil discourse.~~ ^{verified, publicly available}” Studley noted. ^{*including three Represent.Us chapters in Michigan}

^{The Chamber trying to silence the voters to keep our power is} “~~Misinformation campaigns and targeted harassment are~~ ^{we know our} part of what is wrong with politics in America today and ~~these~~ ^{fact-based} tactics are not welcome here in Michigan,” continued Studley. “The Chamber does ~~not~~ ^{misinformation} support gerrymandering, as the ~~campaign suggests; we oppose this specific ballot proposal because it's bad public policy.~~ ^{reduces the power of special interests}”

“This important legal question ~~is now properly before the Michigan Supreme Court and we look forward to their decision.~~ ^{was already reviewed by multiple judges and denied, so we decided to cost the taxpayers more money by taking it to the state supreme court}” Studley concluded.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is a statewide business organization ^{and dark money front group} representing over 6,000 employers, trade associations and local chambers of commerce who employ over one million Michigan residents. The Michigan Chamber represents businesses of every size and type in all 83 counties of the state. The Michigan Chamber was established in 1959 to be an advocate for Michigan's ~~job providers~~ ^{corrupt status quo} in the legislative, political and legal process.

SOURCE Michigan Chamber of Commerce ^{with corrections by Represent.Us}

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