

MIRS Capitol Capsule, Friday, April 18, 2008

MML Urges Gov To Veto Supplemental

The Michigan Municipal League today urged Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** to veto the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 supplemental budget after the Legislature opted not to include in the mid-year spending plan \$6.5 million for local road projects and another \$1 million for local bus systems.

HB 5344 spent \$143.9 million, in part to pay for the \$10 million presidential primary and prevent layoffs at the Department of Environmental Quality. While the Senate included \$6.5 million for the Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) and House Republicans also lobbied hard for the money, the funding was not included in Granholm's original proposal or the House version of the supplemental.

"We believe the Governor's recommendation was for items that needed to be dealt with immediately, such as funding that would avoid mid-year layoffs or pay for services already provided, in the case of the primary," said Budget Office spokeswoman Leslee **FRITZ**.

But MML officials said the Legislature dealt "another blow to Michigan's reeling economy" by not including in the funding the version of **HB 5344** that moved out of the House and Senate on Thursday (See "**Primary, DEQ Money Approved**," 4/17/08). Also not approved was an extra \$1 million for mass transit systems in Wayne, Oakland, Genesee and Kent counties, and certain rural areas.

The money, they said, would create jobs, ease road congestion and make the state more attractive to young college graduates who are moving to other states, in part, because cities there have better mass transit systems, said MML Legislative Associate David **WORTHAMS**.

"As recently as this year legislators indicated their support for this, and yet once again they have missed the opportunity to help and create jobs, while choosing instead to harm roads, bridges and public transit," Worthams said.