

Built to Solve

America's 250th birthday is more than a milestone worth celebrating. It is an opportunity to remember what has always set our country apart.

Our history has never been defined by the absence of challenges. Quite the opposite. For 250 years, Americans have met uncertainty with determination, setbacks with resilience and obstacles with innovation. Time and again, we have chosen to build, invent, improve, and move forward.

That spirit is woven into the fabric of Michigan and the USA.

It lives in the entrepreneurs opening a first storefront on main streets across our communities. In the family-owned manufacturers that have employed generations of workers. In the farmers feeding our families, the technology companies developing tomorrow's solutions and the countless small businesses that sponsor youth teams, support local charities and serve as the backbone of neighborhoods across our state.

Business has always been about more than commerce. It is one of America's greatest engines of opportunity. Every successful business begins with someone willing to take a risk, solve a problem or imagine a better way forward. When those ideas succeed, they create jobs, strengthen families, generate investment, and build stronger communities.

Michigan has helped shape that story for generations.

Companies like the Ford Motor Company revolutionized mobility and manufacturing. Meijer reimaged retail while remaining rooted in community. Dow turned scientific discovery into practical solutions improving lives around the world. Today, a new generation of Michigan businesses is leading innovation in everything from advanced manufacturing and life sciences to artificial intelligence and aerospace.

Different industries. Different eras. The same American spirit.

None of that happens by accident.

Our nation's free enterprise system has given generations of Americans the freedom to pursue ideas, compete fairly, build businesses, and create opportunity for others. That system has produced extraordinary innovation and prosperity, but it also depends on something equally important: civic engagement.

Strong communities require more than successful businesses. They require engaged citizens.

That means serving on local boards, mentoring young people, volunteering, voting, participating in public dialogue and working constructively with those who see the world differently.

Protect. Connect. Strengthen. **Michigan Businesses.**

Businesses have long played an essential role – not only as employers, but as community leaders helping solve problems, strengthen institutions and invest in the places they call home.

The challenges facing our country today are real. Economic uncertainty. Workforce shortages. Housing, childcare and healthcare. Infrastructure. Global competition. Rapid technological change.

But if the past 250 years have taught us anything, it is that Americans do not shrink from difficult challenges. We solve them.

That same optimism, determination and shared responsibility must guide us forward.

At the Michigan Chamber, we believe the next chapter of America's story will be written by people willing to innovate, collaborate and lead. By businesses willing to invest. By elected leaders willing to put long-term prosperity ahead of short-term politics. And by us all willing to engage, listen and help solve problems together.

America's greatest strength has never been that we have all the answers. It is that we have never stopped searching for better ones.

As we celebrate this historic anniversary, we should take pride in what generations before us built. But even more importantly, we should recommit ourselves to building what comes next.

The next great Michigan company has not yet been founded.

The next breakthrough has not yet been discovered.

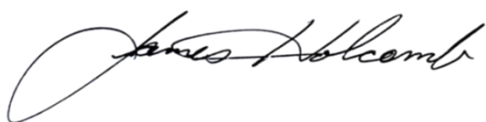
The next generation of civic leaders is just beginning to find its voice.

The opportunities before us are every bit as great as those behind us.

For 250 years, Americans have never stopped building, solving and believing tomorrow can be better than today.

That's worth celebrating. And it's worth carrying forward – for the next 250 years.

Sincerely,



Jim Holcomb
President & CEO
Michigan Chamber of Commerce