

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfortunately, Michigan Gov. Granholm has had an accomplice in her economic-policy misdeeds: a Republican Legislature that has been all-too-willing to go along with her tax-and-spending ways.

Although legislators may yet thwart the governor's latest scheme, too many of them went along with recent plans that included putting scheduled income-tax cuts on hold, raising cigarette taxes by 75 cents (a \$300 million annual cost to smokers), hiking the tax on Detroit's casinos from 18% to 24% (costing \$49 million), boosting driving fees and penalties (a cost of \$115 million annually), speeding up the collection of county property taxes and generally avoiding cuts in state government spending. According to research from the Mackinac Center, delaying the income-tax cut alone cost Michigan 2,948 jobs in 2004.

In addition to a worsening tax climate, Michigan also has the second-highest per-unit labor costs in the nation. Gov. Granholm, who owes her allegiance to big labor, has reinforced the labor unions' power whenever possible and Republicans have done little to stop her.

If Michigan is to regain its economic footing, Republican legislators will need to find their voice in opposing Gov. Granholm's big-government, big-labor policies.

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