

## Preparing for a New Year and New Governor.

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance is preparing for a new year, a new Governor and a new legislative leadership team in Lansing. In November meetings and communication with our new representatives from northern Michigan started taking place. Those meetings focused on building relationships with these new legislators. Discussions focused on the barriers to business growth and development across our region.

I along with other Alliance Chamber Executives have also been in Lansing in the last several weeks meeting with new State House and Senate Leadership and members of the Governor's transition team. The focus of the meetings has been how do we grow business and remove barriers to increase jobs in our state. The theme of all the meetings seems to focus on how do we grow Michigan and solve our current budget crisis.

In 2010 the Alliance laid out the following guiding principles.

- Make it easier for businesses in Northern Michigan to be profitable.
- Help strong business sectors remain strong in our region.
- Promote investment in our transportation and business infrastructure.
- Make sure we have a workforce prepared for the future needs of Northern Michigan Businesses

In 2011 those principles will once again be the focus for building a legislative strategy that will focus on actions and outcomes for our region.

Our time spent preparing this plan and meeting with new legislators allows us to learn about the issues facing business. We will use that knowledge to create a plan for you to get involved and assist, by advocating for business growth and opportunities across our region. If you have any legislative questions or comments please contact me at [deyoung@tcchamber.org](mailto:deyoung@tcchamber.org) or 231-995-7109.