



July 18, 2010

## Letters to the South Oakland Eccentric

Coleman's best

In this election we need to elect people who will break the partisan gridlock that has prevented our state from attracting industry and new jobs and solving our budget woes. We cannot afford to elect persons without the right experience and qualifications. This is not the time for newbies who need to learn the ropes.

As a longtime Southfield resident, I have observed Eric Coleman's public life and professional accomplishments over a period of many years. As an elected official in the City of Southfield, I have many opportunities to meet and interact with officials at many levels of government, including national. Eric Coleman has a determination and passion for public service that is unequaled today. His entire adult life has been dedicated to improving the lives of others. From mentoring Southfield high school students and teaching them about our democratic system of government (on his own time), to passing legislation that guarantees food safety and cleanliness of restaurants for Oakland County residents. As our County Commissioner for the past 14 years Eric has never waived in his determination to make things better for those he serves. And he has been extremely successful in a position where Democrats have been the minority.

Eric extends himself to "go the extra mile" in his public service and is unwavering in his determination to fight for, and win, a better life for all of us. Eric does not just try; he succeeds where others fail.

Eric has experience at the national level as president of the National Organization of County Executives while still handling his county duties. He has proven himself capable of working with all sides of the political spectrum to accomplish legislation that benefits the people.

In the Aug. 3 primary election we have a choice to make:

The youth and lack of experience of his opponent; or the wisdom and proven ability of Eric Coleman who gets things done that benefit our people. Eric Coleman's proven successful experience and significant accomplishments are outstanding. He is by any measure the most qualified person to be our next state representative. Please join me in voting for Eric Coleman to be our next state representative and send him to Lansing.

Joan Seymour

Councilwoman

City of Southfield

Most qualified

Eric Coleman is without question the most qualified candidate for state representative running to represent District 35 (Southfield, Lathrup Village, portions of Oak Park and the Charter Township of Royal Oak). It has been my pleasure to work closely with Eric on the Oakland County Commission since 2003. He is always ready to stand up for what's right, speak out and work to make a positive change.

Eric is the only candidate with leadership experience locally, regionally and on a national and international level. His experience as president of the National Association of Counties has generated tremendous benefits for Oakland County residents, especially the prescription drug discount card. Because of his prominence, he was able to successfully lead a national campaign to prevent the Bush administration from eliminating the Community Development Block Grant program, which provides services for senior citizens and home repairs.

At the recent Michigan Association of Counties' Legislative Conference, it was noted that it is preferred that individuals elected to the House of Representatives have prior legislative experience. Otherwise, they will spend the first two years in office just learning the ropes.

Eric Coleman has the "strength of experience" with complex budgetary issues and legislative processes essential to being effective in Lansing from day one. He will bring to Lansing the proven successes of Oakland County to attract businesses, create jobs and balance budgets. I support Eric Coleman and strongly urge your readers to vote for Eric Coleman to be their State Representative!

Mattie McKinney Hatchett

Oakland County Commissioner

District 10

Disgusting

I found Richard Jedd's letter "Peters unfit" so disgusting. He is actually saying Rep Gary Peters is violating the Constitution because he does want those people who caused us to have this horrible meltdown to not get their millions in bonuses. What planet is he living on? With millions of people facing losing their homes, unable to feed their families, he is trying to badmouth Rep. Gary Peters for fighting for justice for the middle class. Of course, notice he lives in Bloomfield Hills. This tells you whose side he is on. Not the people's side. Gary Peters is our last hope for fair representation for our district. If we do not re-elect Gary Peters get ready for more of what we just voted to change. You cannot undo eight years of ruin in 18 months. Think a lot before you send us back to no regulation, more tax breaks for the wealthy and less help for the unemployed and no hope for jobs.

Joanne Braund

Royal Oak

Peters is for small business

It is absolutely hilarious that Paul Welday finally decided to come out of the woodwork and acknowledge Michigan's small businesses. Go figure — he is a lobbyist running for Congress. Anyone else as alarmed as I am?

Welday is a day late and a dollar short and now he wants us to believe his interest in helping Michigan's entrepreneurs is genuine? Give me a break. It is clear that Welday is simply making a poor attempt at mimicking Gary Peters' genuine efforts for benefiting Michigan's small business owners.

Peters has been fighting for small businesses for years! He is dedicated to cutting taxes for entrepreneurs instead of watching them struggle to make it in today's market. He even launched a small business tour earlier this summer — well before Welday decided to put on his act. Peters, unlike Welday, actually believes that small business owners deserve better lending programs and expanded tax credits to thrive. Don't let Welday's pathetic charade fool you!

Robert Bowen

Birmingham

Vote yes on SMART request

Voters will be asked to approve the renewal of the SMART millage on the Aug. 3 primary ballot. A YES vote is crucial to the continued availability of public transportation in our region. SMART relies on the millage for nearly half of its operating funds and as the local match for a substantial portion of its federal funding.

SMART has been a vital means of transportation for southeast Michigan residents for 40 years. Approximately 14,000,000 people ride SMART buses yearly.

Whether it's a student attending school, a person going to work, or a senior traveling to a doctor, shopping or church, SMART has become a necessity for millions of people living in 75 communities in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

SMART service is important to the region's economy. More than 54,000 businesses are located within a quarter mile of a SMART bus route, giving access to more than 916,000 jobs. In addition, SMART's "Get a Job — Get a Ride" program provides a free one-month bus pass to people starting a new job.

Not only does SMART provide reliable transportation for citizens, but it's also making strides to be "Green." This year the entire SMART fleet switched from diesel fuel to a bio-diesel blend and also introduced hybrid electric buses that lower emissions and improve fuel mileage.

SMART is seeking a 0.59-mill property tax renewal. This equates to \$1 in tax for each \$1,000 of taxable property value, approximately one-third of the tax required by other public transportation systems. It is an investment well worth making! Every \$1 spent on public transportation is multiplied six times in the regional economy. No new taxes are proposed.

The renewal of SMART millage will allow the system to continue to be the primary hub of transportation, connecting southeast Michigan communities, providing an accessible, efficient way to travel and contributing to the economic vitality of the region.

The SMART choice is to vote YES Aug. 3 for continued convenient public transportation in southeastern Michigan

John Mogk

president, Citizens For A SMART Future

### Repower vs. new vehicle

When serious engine trouble hits, the Engine Repower Council (ERC) recommends that vehicle owners ask themselves if they should repower or replace the vehicle. Many motorists don't consider repowering and instead take on the financial burden of buying a new car. That choice can result in a cost difference of thousands of dollars.

With repowering, the vehicle's engine is disassembled, cleaned, machined and remanufactured to be as good as new. This is the best option, since repowered engines are dependable, reliable and backed by excellent warranty programs. Some may choose a used or junk yard engine. The risk here is that the used engine has an unknown performance and maintenance history, which means you may be asking for more problems.

The Engine Repower Council has created a cost comparison chart of popular vehicles to illustrate the cost difference between repowering and purchasing a new vehicle. For example, to replace a worn-out engine with a remanufactured/rebuilt engine in a 1980 to 1995 full size V8 domestic pickup would cost \$2,700 to \$3,450 compared to an average cost of \$30,000 to purchase a new vehicle. The cost savings is significant even without taking into account auto loan interest and increased insurance rates.

To learn more about engine repowering and view the Engine Repower Council's cost comparison chart, visit [www.enginerepower.org](http://www.enginerepower.org) and click on Cost Comparisons.

Ken Carter

chairman, Engine Repower Council

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