



For Immediate Release
March 30, 2015

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Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan Receives Leadership Award

U.S. Senator Recognized by Economic Development Industry

WASHINGTON, DC (March 30, 2015) – U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan was awarded with the Congressional Leadership Award by the [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC), for her significant contributions in the area of economic development. The honor was presented during IEDC's Federal Economic Development Forum, held March 29-31 in Arlington, VA.

"The Congressional Leadership Award honors a member of congress for his or her continuous support for economic development or intense work on a single piece of legislation, and Senator Stabenow--much to the benefit of the constituents she has served--is the very embodiment of just such a person," noted JoAnn Cray, CEcD, President of Saginaw Future Inc. in Saginaw, MI and current IEDC Board of Directors Chair.

Throughout her nearly 15 years in office, United States Senator Debbie Stabenow has been a force for major economic development initiatives in her home state of Michigan and throughout the nation. She has championed projects across the economic development spectrum in education, infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and the automotive industry.

Senator Stabenow's leadership was highlighted most recently with the passage of the Agricultural Act of 2014, more commonly known as the Farm Bill. She worked diligently to build bipartisan support for this piece of legislation which will make major reforms to agriculture programs across the country. The bill aids farmers in finding new local and global markets and offers assistance to those interested in entrepreneurial agricultural ventures. Also, the bill will assist rural communities with infrastructure needs and with creating a stronger business environment. The significant resources provided in the legislation will offer vital economic opportunities, increased income, and more jobs in the nation's rural communities.

The passage of the Farm Bill is her latest victory, but Senator Stabenow has been a longtime advocate for economic development initiatives throughout her time in office. In 2013, Senator Stabenow sponsored the New Skills for New Jobs Act, a bill that paves the way for community colleges to partner with local businesses to provide workforce training. The effort has been a resounding success, already creating more than 40 local partnerships and training nearly 10,000 workers in Michigan alone.

A strong supporter of her home state's primary industry, Senator Stabenow has been a leader in the revitalization of the United States' auto manufacturing sector. She was integral to the success of the federal bridge loan program, an initiative that is largely attributed to preventing the collapse of the industry in 2008. She continues to focus on the health of manufacturing, frequently passing measures that assist automakers in Michigan and beyond. As Co-Chair of the Senate Manufacturing Caucus,

Senator Stabenow has successfully helped pass legislation such as the Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit, which allows Ford and General Motors to expand clean energy initiatives. She also authored the Section 136 retooling loan program under the Energy Independence and Security Act, which enabled auto companies to remodel facilities and return manufacturing jobs from abroad. With Senator Stabenow's support, the auto industry has come back to life and is experiencing historic levels of production.

Throughout her tenure as a United States Senator, Debbie Stabenow has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the citizens of Michigan while positively impacting the nation as a whole. Her holistic approach to economic development has led to many legislative successes that will continue to have positive impacts for years to come. The International Economic Development Council is honored to present United States Senator Debbie Stabenow with the 2015 Congressional Leadership in Economic Development Award.

About the International Economic Development Council

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,600 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedconline.org

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