



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LANSING



TERESA M. TAKAI
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

April 7, 2008

Mitch Bean, Director
House Fiscal Agency
Anderson House Office Building
124 N. Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Mr. Bean:

As requested, we are providing you with general estimates for a web-based accountability portal that would replicate the Missouri portal, a site for people to review detailed state expenditure data.

The technology Michigan currently uses to track and compile financial and procurement data was developed in the 1980s. To upgrade that technology to offer the functions that the Missouri portal provides would require an extensive update of these systems. Though the state has not completed a specific analysis of the costs involved in this kind of upgrade project, the experiences of Ohio and Pennsylvania are instructive. When these two states embarked on similar projects to update similar data systems, their information technology invested between \$100 and \$150 million over two to three years.

While Michigan does not currently offer a web-based system that *exactly* matches the Missouri portal, we are pleased to note that a wide spectrum of expenditure data is already available at Michigan.gov. This includes state contract lists, budget reports, Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports and a variety of program data. Michigan has also received significant national recognition for its efforts targeting fiscal accountability and transparency, including a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Financial Officers Association and an "A" for information access and performance management efforts from the triennial Government Performance Project (Michigan was one of only five states--including Missouri--to receive an "A").

Since taking office, Governor Granholm has made government transparency and fiscal accountability defining principles of Michigan state government. Both the Departments of Information Technology and Management and Budget are continually exploring new opportunities and ideas for expanding citizen access.

We appreciate the opportunity to address this question and to emphasize our continuing commitment to citizen access and fiscal accountability.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Theis
Director