



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SENATOR JEFF IRWIN RECEIVES MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION AWARD**

Lansing, Michigan – December 17, 2020 – State Senator Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) has been recognized as a 2020 Legislative Economic Development Champion by the Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA). Senator Irwin was nominated by Bali Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Lean & Green Michigan, LLC.

MEDA is a professional society with members throughout the state that attract and grow business, create and retain jobs, and make our communities a better place to live. The Awards were developed in 2020 by the Association to recognize legislators that show a passion for championing economic development work by assisting economic development efforts that affect the entire state, assisting with local economic development projects, championing the restoration of funding for economic development, participating with their local economic development organization, or sponsoring economic development legislation. Nine other legislators from Michigan's House of Representative and Senate were awarded.

Kumar's nomination came because of Senator Irwin's strong support for amending the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Act ("C-PACE") legislation. C-PACE allows for property owners to access long-term, low-interest financing to improve existing building stock and incentivizes developers to build better buildings. The amendments to the C-PACE legislation, championed by Senator Irwin, will allow more commercial, industrial, multifamily, agricultural, and nonprofit property and business owners around the state to obtain financing to lower operating costs while creating well-paying local construction and energy efficiency jobs. He also introduced Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy ("R-PACE") legislation that would allow residential property owners to finance upgrades to their homes that would help save money on their energy bills, thus also creating additional well-paying local construction and energy efficiency jobs.

Bali Kumar said of Senator Irwin, "Senator Irwin is very thoughtful in his legislating. He understands the win-win-win of PACE financing - it creates good jobs for contractors, it supports businesses by helping them reduce energy waste, and it doesn't cost taxpayer dollars to run the program."

MEDA thanks Senator Irwin for his hard work in improving opportunities in our state by supporting these economic development initiatives.

ABOUT MEDA

The Michigan Economic Developers Association has partnered with economic developers to grow their community in Michigan for 60 years. By providing education, networking, and advocacy, MEDA makes it possible for professionals to do their job more effectively and efficiently. To learn more, see www.medaweb.org.

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