

U.S.SENATOR

Debbie **STABENOW**

2006

To: Members of the Press
From: Stabenow for Senate
Re: Mike Bouchard's Debate Strategy
Date: 10/15/06

Mike Bouchard has his talking points from the National GOP. He's ready to go. And he's bringing his campaign strategy to a statewide television audience: Ignore the facts and attack, attack, attack.

In the next 60 minutes you will hear misleading charge after misleading charge about Debbie Stabenow and her record of results. For months Mike Bouchard has twisted the facts and tried to mislead the people of Michigan. Mike and his GOP friends in Washington have mounted a campaign of mistruths, including:

- A million dollars in negative TV ads, ads that never mention Mike Bouchard, his record, or any plans he might have for Michigan and do nothing but peddle mistruths about Debbie Stabenow.
- At least five attack web sites, all of them falsely stating Senator Stabenow's positions and mocking the serious issues that face Michigan.
- Hundreds of negative press releases misrepresenting Senator Stabenow's positions, voting record, and accomplishments.

The polls indicate that the people of Michigan are tired of these Republican fear and smear tactics. The only thing sadder than Mike's attacks has been how much they have failed.

The attacks are as predictable as they are false, stripped directly out of the national Republican playbook that has been failing candidates across America. Just a few of the charges you are going to hear today:

- FALSE—Debbie Stabenow hasn't gotten anything done for Michigan except naming a federal building in Detroit.
- FALSE—Debbie Stabenow's deal to stop municipally controlled waste from Canada is somehow bad for Michigan.
- FALSE—Debbie Stabenow supports giving Social Security to illegal immigrants.
- FALSE—Debbie Stabenow is anti-tax cut.
- FALSE—Debbie Stabenow wants to weaken our borders, make us less safe and leave us vulnerable to nuclear weapons from North Korea.

We already knew Mike Bouchard embraced the failed and tired policies of the Bush administration. Now we know he subscribes to their political philosophy of never letting the facts get in the way of an argument.

In the following document you will find the facts concerning Debbie Stabenow on these and other issues. Debbie Stabenow is proud of her record, is Mike Bouchard proud of his distortions?

If you need more facts regarding Debbie Stabenow's record of delivering for Michigan please visit www.stabenowforsenate.com or give us a call at (517) 336-8500.

***Mike would like you to believe* that Senator Stabenow hasn't gotten anything done for Michigan except naming a federal building in Detroit**

The Truth Is...

Senator Stabenow has consistently reached across party lines to pass legislation on issues that matter most to Michigan.

Members of the press aren't buying it. “And despite GOP claims that Stabenow is partisan and ineffective, she's managed to find allies among her Republican colleagues to help push through bills to fund the training of volunteer firefighters, create manufacturing tax breaks and block oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes.

“Most recently she co-authored bill language with Sen. David Vitter, R-La., that would allow Americans to purchase drugs in Canada and bring them back across the border for their own personal use. The president signed the measure into law as part of a homeland security bill.” [Booth Newspapers, 10/15/06]

Even a conservative newspaper debunked Bouchard's claim. Stabenow “has written 68 amendments, 19 of which were adopted by her colleagues” [The Washington Times, 9/29/06]

Some of these amendments include:

- **Tax Relief for Job Creation:** A tax cut, based on Senator Stabenow's MORE JOBS bill, was enacted into law in 2004 giving manufacturers \$2 billion in immediate tax relief for creating jobs in the U.S., rather than shipping them overseas. [SA 2686, passed 3/22/04; Associated Press, 4/27/04]
- **Passage of a Transportation Bill Creating Over 61,000 Good Paying Jobs in Michigan:** Senator Stabenow helped lead the delegation effort to secure more highway and road construction funds for Michigan. Signed into law in August 2005, the SAFETEA transportation bill provides \$1.123 billion per year in highway funding and over \$594 million in transit funding, significantly increasing Michigan's share of federal transportation funds. [S.1072, vote #14, 2/12/04; Detroit Free Press, 7/30/05; Associated Press, 7/29/05]
- **Authored the First Federal Ban on Great Lakes Drilling:** Just six months into her Senate term, Senator Stabenow rallied bipartisan support to successfully pass the first ever federal ban on drilling for gas and oil in the Great Lakes to protect these waters and the jobs they support for future generations. [SA 987, passed 7/17/01; Toledo Blade, 8/7/05; Gannett News, 5/13/05]

For more information on Senator Stabenow's record of results for Michigan, please visit:
www.stabenowforsenate.com.

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow's Canadian trash deal isn't good for Michigan

The Truth Is...

Senator Stabenow led a recent effort to stop municipally-controlled solid waste from Ontario.

Senator Stabenow, along with Senator Carl Levin, recently negotiated an agreement with Ontario officials to stop shipments of municipally-managed solid waste into Michigan over the next four years. Under the terms of the Stabenow-Levin agreement, there will be an immediate 20 percent reduction of municipally controlled solid waste within the first year, a 40 percent reduction within two years and a complete end to these shipments within four years. This represents the largest, most concrete victory yet in the battle to stop Canadian trash flowing into Michigan. [Port Huron Times-Herald, 9/5/04; AP, 8/31/06; Detroit News, 9/1/06]

Senator Stabenow's negotiations with Canada have been widely praised. "Finally, Michigan residents are seeing some real progress toward curtailing imported Canadian trash..." "Many Michigan residents are rejoicing. That's especially so for those living on the route that sees hundreds of Canadian trash trucks rolling by daily on their way to Carleton Farms landfill in southern Wayne County..." "...The negotiated approach looks like it has a much better chance of working than the U.S. House bill." [Editorial, Monroe Evening News, 9/10/06]

"The Stabenow-Levin deal is a good step, worked out in cooperation with a longtime friendly government." [Editorial, Detroit Free Press, 9/1/06]

"Nevertheless, the initiative and creativity of Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin are the first of several efforts in Washington, D.C., and Lansing over the past few years that seem guaranteed to cut the amount Ontario dumps in the state's landfills, including two in Genesee County." [Editorial, Flint Journal, 9/3/06]

"Although highly unusual, Stabenow did show imagination and initiative when she negotiated directly with the Ontario government to stop residential trash exports to Michigan landfills. It was the first movement in years on this stalled international issue." [Editorial, Bay City Times, 10/12/06]

The Republican-controlled Senate had no intention of moving forward on a Canadian trash bill.

"After Wednesday's House vote, Levin noted that he and Stabenow introduced a Senate bill in June 2005 similar to the House measure. 'The Senate bill has been buried in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for over a year without so much as a hearing,' he said. A spokesman for the committee told a Washington newspaper this week that the committee *does not plan to hold hearings on the bill.*" [Detroit Free Press, 9/7/06]

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow supports Social Security for illegal immigrants

The Truth Is...

Senator Stabenow does not support Social Security for illegal immigrants.

National independent watchdog says GOP charge is misleading. FactCheck.org, a project of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center, just debunked this attack which they call a "Republican Campaign Theme" being used in at least 29 GOP ad campaigns across the country, mostly in the last few weeks. They call the charge "a mischaracterization" and a "misleading claim" and specifically list Bouchard's ad as one that doesn't add up. [FactCheck.org, "Republican Campaign Theme Debunked: Social Security for Illegal Immigrants," 10/10/06]

Bouchard supporters voted with Senator Stabenow. On the vote in question (SA 3985, vote #130, 5/18/06), Stabenow was joined by Bouchard endorsers Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS) and John McCain (R-AZ). Do these Republicans support social security for illegal immigrants, Mike?

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow didn't lead the effort to pass a tax cut for manufacturers

The Truth Is...

Senator Stabenow has consistently supported lowering taxes for companies that say "no" to outsourcing and create jobs in the United States.

Senator Stabenow Reached Across Party Lines To Pass Tax Relief for Job Creation: A tax cut, based on Senator Stabenow's MORE JOBS bill, was enacted into law in 2004 giving manufacturers \$2 billion in immediate tax relief for creating jobs in the U.S., rather than shipping them overseas. [SA 2686, passed 3/22/04; Associated Press, 7/27/04]

The Detroit News Gives Credit Where Credit is Due. "Stabenow did serve as Democratic sponsor of a 2004 tax-cut bill for manufacturers. The Republican sponsor, representing the Senate majority, was U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky." [Detroit News, 9/15/06]

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow has voted to weaken our borders

The Truth is...

Senator Stabenow's has a long record of supporting measures to keep American safe through securing both our nation's borders, including the construction of a fence and installation of state-of-the-art surveillance equipment along the Southern Border, and tripling the number of U.S. Customs and Immigration agents at the Northern Border.

Senator Stabenow supports strengthening our borders. The vote consistently cited by the Bouchard campaign as "proof" that she wants to weaken our borders (HR 5441, Vote #200, 7/16/06) would have cut other critical Homeland Security programs, including Northern Border security, across the board by over 5%. As Republican Judd Gregg said of the vote,

"Although I am very sympathetic to the purpose of the policy behind this amendment, the simple fact is that this sort of across-the-board cut would wreak havoc on this department and potentially mean significant reductions in a number of critical areas. This department does not have a lot of activity that is not critical to our

homeland security, and a 5.5 percent cut across the board would have a devastating impact. So I have to oppose this amendment.” [Senator Judd Gregg, Congressional Record, S7487, 7/13/06]

In fact, 28 Republican colleagues, including Bouchard supporter John McCain (R-AZ), joined Senator Stabenow on this vote. Does over half the GOP caucus, including John McCain, want to weaken our borders, Mike?

Senator Stabenow has consistently supported border security:

- **Stabenow supports Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act.** Stabenow supports passage of a bill that would strengthen our borders, secure our visa entry system, and enhance our ability to deter potential terrorists. It would require planes and passenger ships traveling from other countries to give immigration officials lists of passengers and crewmembers before arriving. It also would create a database of suspected terrorists that federal agencies could use to screen visa applicants, and require schools to tell government officials if foreign students do not report for class. [HR 3525, Vote #75, 4/18/02]
- **Stabenow voted in support of an increase in funding for border security.** Stabenow voted for an amendment to H.R. 1268, the FY05 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. Amendment would increase funding for border security by \$389.6 million. [HR 1268, Vote # 105, 4/20/2005]
- **Stabenow voted in support of funding for homeland security with increased border security spending.** Stabenow voted for passage of a bill that would provide \$31.9 billion in fiscal 2006 for the Homeland Security Department, including \$7.9 billion for the Coast Guard, \$6 billion for border security, \$5.1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, not including assumed fees, and \$3.8 billion for investigating and enforcing immigration and customs laws. [HR 2360, Vote # 189, 7/14/05]
- **Stabenow supported increased funding for border security.** Stabenow voted for an amendment that would add \$1.9 billion for border patrol vehicles, aircraft, fencing and new stations as well as for Homeland Security Department personnel and Coast Guard border patrol efforts. [HR 4939, Vote #95, 4/26/06]
- **Stabenow supported emergency appropriations for border security, Iraq, Afghanistan, hurricane relief and pandemic flu preparations.** Stabenow voted for passage of the bill that would appropriate roughly \$109 billion in emergency supplemental funding for fiscal 2006. It would provide \$70.9 billion in fiscal 2006 funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and foreign aid. It would provide more than \$28 billion for hurricane relief, approximately \$2.6 billion for pandemic flu preparations and \$1.9 billion for border security efforts. [HR 4939, Vote #112, 5/4/06]
- **Stabenow supports construction of a fence along Southwest United States Border.** Stabenow vote for an amendment that would increase the fencing and vehicle barriers along the southwest border of the United States. It would require within two years of enactment the construction of 370 miles of triple-layered fencing and 500 miles of vehicle barriers along that border. [S 2611, Vote #126, 5/17/06]
- **Stabenow supports the use of the National Guard for border security activities.** Stabenow voted for an amendment that would authorize any state governor, with approval from the secretary of Defense, to order units or personnel of that state's National Guard to spend annual training duty

engaged in border security activities in states along U.S.-Mexico border. [S 2611, Vote # 137, 5/22/06]

- **Stabenow supports Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007.** Stabenow voted for passage of a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, including funding for the Southern Border fence. [HR 5441, Vote #203, 7/13/06]

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow is anti-tax cut, even for Social Security taxes

The Truth Is...

Not only has Senator Stabenow voted to lower Social Security taxes, but she also stood up to GOP efforts to privatize Social Security. Senator Stabenow supports tax cuts that make sense for Michigan families and businesses, including reducing the marriage penalty, eliminating the estate tax, and creating tax credits to invest in education and innovation.

Debbie Stabenow voted to lower Social Security taxes multiple times: In 2003, she voted for a plan that according to Congressional Quarterly specifically “would have repealed a 1993 provision taxing 85 percent of the Social Security benefits of individuals and couples above a modest income level” and two more times to push for lower taxes on Social Security benefits. In 2005, she voted again for lower taxes on Social Security. [CQ Daily Monitor, 5/15/03; SA 426, vote #101, 3/25/03; SA 589, vote #148, 5/15/03; SA 556, vote #149, 5/15/03; SA 243, vote #73, 3/17/05]

The Detroit Free Press Recognized Stabenow’s Fight Against Privatization. Stabenow also has fought GOP efforts to offer Social Security privatization options for younger workers,” a plan that Democrats were able to stop. [Detroit Free Press, 10/3/05]

Senator Stabenow has consistently voted for tax cuts that make sense for Michigan:

- **Stabenow cosponsored a bill to accelerate the child tax credit increase from 10% to 15% and to reduce the marriage penalty.** Amends the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), with respect to the child tax credit, to: (1) accelerate the increase from the 10 percent to the 15 percent rate; and (2) reduce the marriage penalty. [S.1434, 07/21/2003]
- **Stabenow supported reducing the national debt.** The amendment would reduce the cut in the top bracket to 38 percent. It would also strike the repeal of the estate tax and insert language that would increase the value of an estate that would be exempt from the tax and exclude family-owned businesses. [HR 1836, vote # 123, failed 39-60, 5/21/01]
- **Stabenow supported eliminating the estate tax on family farms and family businesses.** The amendment would strike the estate tax repeal provision and insert language that provides for the repeal of the estate tax in 2003 for all qualified family-owned farms and businesses. It also would reduce the top estate tax rate bracket to 45 percent. [HR 1836, vote #124, failed 43-56, 5/21/01]
- **Stabenow supported an across the board tax cut for all income tax payers.** Senator Feingold proposed an amendment that would strike the estate tax repeal provision in the bill on all estates

except for those less than \$100 million in size. It also would increase the income limits applicable to the 10 percent rate bracket for individual income taxes. [HR 1836, vote #135, failed 48-51, 5/22/01]

- **Stabenow introduced legislation to help families save early for college.** Under Senator Stabenow's "Kick Start to College Act" a family would receive an annual tax credit up to \$1,000 for every dollar they save toward their child's higher education. This \$1,000 would be credited to the child's college savings account to match the money the family has already contributed. A family could receive a total maximum tax credit of \$6,000 over six years. The earlier parents start saving for college, the more time the money has to grow.

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow takes too much credit for fixing the pension bill for Michigan companies

The Truth Is...

Senator Stabenow reached across the aisle and worked to get a pension bill passed that is good for Michigan's workers and retirees.

Senator Stabenow has supported legislation that helps protect pension plans. The bill would force employers with defined-defined benefit pension plans to meet their funding obligations and tries to prevent companies from terminating their plans and shifting the burden to taxpayers ["Levin and Stabenow Support Pension Bill," Associated Press, 8/6/06]

- "Senators Stabenow and Levin helped the Senate approve pension legislation meant to ensure the future of pension plans for millions of baby boomers nearing retirement." ["Levin and Stabenow Support Pension Bill," Associated Press, 8/6/06]

Senator Stabenow was one of only two senators to vote no on earlier pension reform legislation that hurt workers. Automakers are concerned that some of the pension proposals would make it more difficult for them- triggering higher pension plan payments based on poor credit ratings, for example. Only two senators voted against the pension bill: Michigan Democrats Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin. ["Ford Urges Incentives For Auto Industry; Lawmakers Are Asked To Devise Policies To Ensure The Survival Of U.S. Manufacturing," Detroit News, 11/23/05]

Senator Stabenow worked with members from both parties to pass the Pension Protection Act. Senator Stabenow joined fellow Democrats and Republicans and voted yes on H.R. 4 to provide pension protection for Americans. [Congressional Record H.R. 4, 8/3/06]

- "On behalf of the 73,000 participants in Northwest Airlines pension plans, and the families that depend on them, we thank all of the members of the House and the Senate that supported this important legislation," said Doug Steenland, Northwest Airlines President and CEO. "While there have been many people involved in this effort, Northwest and its employees would like to especially thank the broad bi-partisan coalition of legislators including...Debbie Stabenow of Michigan." ["Northwest Applauds Congress' Passage Of Legislation That Saves Employees' Pension Benefits," PR Newswire, 8/4/06]

Mike would like you to believe that Senator Stabenow opposes a missile defense system

The Truth Is...

Senator Stabenow has consistently supported research, development, and accountability for a missile defense system and has supported several defense bills that authorize and appropriate funding for missile defense in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Stabenow believes there is no issue more important than keeping our families, communities, and the nation safe.

Stabenow voted for a defense spending bill that included funding for a new counter-terrorism program and a military pay raise. Provides \$317.5 billion for the Defense Department for fiscal year 2002, about \$19 billion more than fiscal year 2001. The agreement would include \$7.8 billion for ballistic missile defense, \$881 million for a new counter-terrorism program, and a 4.6 percent pay increase for military personnel. [Yea Vote, HR 3338, vote #380, 12/20/2001]

Senator Stabenow supports funding for missile defense programs. Senator Stabenow voted for the Sessions amendment that would authorize an additional \$45 million for the Missile Defense Agency for testing and operations, to be offset by reducing military personnel accounts by the same amount. [S. 2766, vote # 185, 6/22/06]

Stabenow voted to declare that it is the policy of the United States to have a national missile defense system. [HR 4, House vote # 58, 3/18/99; House vote # 59, 3/18/99; House vote #144, 5/20/99]