Interview with David Littmann

*Ruth Spencer*: WHAT HAPPENED? THAT’S THE QUESTION MUCH OF MICHIGAN IS ASKING TONIGHT.

PFIZER’S DECISION TO CLOSE THREE FACILITIES AND ELIMINATE NEARLY THREE THOUSAND JOBS FROM ITS MICHIGAN WORKFORCE STUNNED STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS--

LOCAL FOUR BUSINESS EDITOR ROD MELONI... IS LIVE IN ANN ARBOR WITH NEW INFORMATION ABOUT WHY THE CUTS MAY NOT BE SO SURPRISING AFTER ALL.

*Rod Meloni*: PFIZER’S ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY CAME OUT OF THE BLUE... BUT IT’S NO SURPRISE TO WELL KNOWN MICHIGAN ECONOMIST: DAVID LITTMANN...WHO REMAINS CRITICAL OF GOVERNOR GRANHOLM’S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

Governor Jennifer Granholm YESTERDAY

*Jennifer Granholm*: “Pfizer’s CEO kept telling me this is a global business decision. There is nothing that Michigan could have done to prevent this from happening. If there was, we would have done it, believe me we would have done it!”

*Rod Meloni*: A STUNNED AND SURPRISED GOVERNOR JENNIFER GRANHOLM COULD ONLY WATCH AS MORE OF MICHIGAN’S ECONOMIC LIFE BLOOD DRAINED AWAY.

MACKINAC CENTER FOR ECONOMIC POLICY ECONOMIST DAVID LITTMANN SAYS THE GOVERNOR SHOULD NEED ONLY LOOK BACK TO THE LATE 90’S WHEN PFIZER AND THE STATE SPARRED OVER DRUG COSTS... THREATENING TO BLACKLIST THE COMPANY... AS A SCAR THAT WOULDN’T HEAL.

David Littmann ECONOMIST, MACKINAC CENTER

*David Littmann*: “At that time they moved jobs to Connecticut. So that was a shot over the bow years ago and not too many less than a dozen to tell us hey, listen, back off, make the private sector competitive!”

*Rod Meloni*: CLOSING THE ANN ARBOR GLOBAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS PART OF A $4 BILLION DOWNSIZING.

David Littmann: “If Michigan would do the same thing, instead of the Governor and the honchos there saying we’re gonna raise taxes and find new revenues, they need to tighten their belts this has been ongoing for decades.”

“We have the resources and a plan to make this a success.”

*Rod Meloni*: STILL, THE GOVERNOR INTENDS TO STAY HER COURSE OF SPENDING TAX MONEY ON TAX BREAKS OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO TRY AND ATTRACT BUSINESS.

WRONGHEADED SAYS LITTMANN.

*David Littmann*: “If you don’t want to see it coming you won’t. Right now she’s moving deck chairs on the Titanic and it’s going down!”

*Rod Meloni*: LITTMANN SAYS THE MARKETPLACE IS SENDING US IN MICHIGAN A LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE... IT’S AN EXPENSIVE PLACE TO DO BUSINESS... WHICH IS COSTING US ALL.

LIVE IN ANN ARBOR, ROD MELONI, LOCAL FOUR.