

September 24, 2013

Michigan State Tax Commission members and staff,

The entire Property Tax Administration profession is constantly under intense scrutiny!

Whether it is a first time new homeowner examining their first assessment change notice, the Governor or State Legislator preparing a yearly budget, to the local County Commissioners, our work is subject to examination by virtually everyone! Assessment Administration, by the very nature of it, must be held to absolute highest standards. The education and certification programs are the very basis of those standards.

Members of the Northern Michigan Equalization Directors Association have long been aware of the need for a thorough examination for possible restructuring of the education/certification curriculum. We realize that changes are necessary to stay up to date with education methods and the ever changing responsibilities and duties of Michigan's assessors and property tax professionals.

While accepting change of any kind isn't always easy, changing any long standing, well established and accepted series of classes can be exponentially more difficult. For those changes to be most effective and well received they must be made as part of a collaborative effort involving all affected parties, which can also have more than a fair share of difficulties.

With all of this in mind:

We, the members of the Northern Michigan Equalization Directors Association, hereby wish to recognize and applaud the members, entire staff, and Education committee of the Michigan State Tax Commission for their continuing efforts to improve and update the Education and Certification programs, helping ensure a strong foundation to move Assessment Administration forward with integrity and professionalism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Keller', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Keller, President

Northern Michigan Equalization Directors Association