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Bridge Magazine Does Big Government's Bidding, Cancels Monthly Pro-Freedom Column from Freedom Fund President

LANSING, MI, September 23, 2014 – Bridge Magazine this week picked big government and labor union backers over Michigan families and a free exchange of ideas when it refused to publish a previously scheduled column from Michigan Freedom Fund President Greg McNeilly. Bridge informed the Freedom Fund that it will no longer publish opinion columns from McNeilly, despite approaching McNeilly earlier this summer, requesting a monthly submission from a “conservative voice.”

McNeilly was approached and asked in June by Bridge Magazine and the Center for Michigan to submit regular, monthly columns discussing topics from a pro-freedom, limited government perspective. The decision to cancel the column came after only two were published, including the most recent column, “[Six Paths to a Freer Michigan](#),” which took on powerful Lansing special interests including Big Labor, DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, Michigan beer and wine wholesalers and more.

“Bridge Magazine and the Center for Michigan clearly believe Lansing’s powerful special interests are more important than Michigan families and open dialogue,” said McNeilly. “Big Labor, Big Energy and Big Government will stop at nothing to crush dissent, and silence opposition. In the process, they’ve now crushed the Center for Michigan’s last remaining credibility as a non-partisan, fair minded organization.”

The decision to cancel McNeilly’s column was in stark contrast with messages from Bridge Magazine editors earlier this summer.

“Greg, I was interested in asking whether you might be interested in writing guest columns for us,” Bridge Magazine Editor David Zeman told McNeilly in an unsolicited voicemail on June 5th. “We need more conservative voices—people who have something to say—in our publication and you sound like you’d be fantastic,”

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Bridge offered McNeilly and the Freedom Fund a monthly payment for submissions, but McNeilly refused to accept any payment.

McNeilly's latest column was initially scheduled to run on Sunday, September 7th. When Bridge failed to publish it, Center for Michigan writer Nancy Derringer lied, telling the Freedom Fund the regular monthly column had simply been pushed back a week because of the Labor Day holiday. Two days later, Bridge editor David Zeman contacted the Freedom Fund to inform the organization that McNeilly's "voice" did not fit Bridge Magazine and that his regular column was being eliminated, leaving the magazine without a single, regular conservative voice.

"Bridge Magazine might not think things like freedom, dialogue, and integrity matter, but Michigan families do," said McNeilly. "The Michigan Freedom Fund will continue standing up to Lansing's special interests and their friends at Bridge, putting those families first."

Michigan Freedom Fund is a nonprofit organization run by Michiganders for Michiganders, working to advance, promote, and protect Michigan workers' Constitutional rights. It works to create educational initiatives, promote issue advocacy and support policies that advance freedom in the workplace and across the state. For more information, please visit www.MichiganFreedomFund.com.

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