



News Release

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Wayne County, Butzel Establish Asia Environmental Business Initiative

WAYNE COUNTY, MI – Wayne County’s Department of Environment and the Detroit-based Butzel Long law firm have created an Asia Environmental Business Initiative, CEO Robert Ficano announced today.

“Wayne County can be a leader in providing jobs and economic opportunity for Michigan businesses in Asia,” said Ficano, “In China alone, there is a multi-trillion dollar market for environmental knowledge, and Wayne County businesses are recognized leaders in this field.”

In 2007, Ficano signed environmental cooperation agreements with four Chinese cities, and the South Korean environmental protection agency. Ficano highlighted environmental issues in his 2007 China Trade Mission, and both Chinese and Korean delegations have visited Wayne County to learn more about the County’s environmental achievements.

“This initiative will combine the expertise of one of Michigan’s leading law firms with the talented staff from our Department of Environment. Together they will open doors for Michigan business and share ideas for a better global environment,” Ficano added.

“We are excited to be part of this unique opportunity for our clients and our local economy,” said C. Peter Theut, who directs Butzel Long’s Asian practice. “Bob Ficano knows the Asia market, and the vision to see the environment as a leading source for jobs and business for our residents. Butzel Long is honored to be part of his vision.”

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The initiative will also focus on environmental outreach and education projects, according to County Environment Director Kurt Heise. “We are working with the University of Michigan-Dearborn to host seminars and programs to improve global environmental knowledge and business growth in Wayne County.”

For information, call Kurt Heise at (313) 224-3631 or C. Peter Theut at (734) 302-1022.

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