



Area Chamber Of Commerce  
Springfield, Missouri U.S.A.

James B. Anderson, CCE  
*President*

"Everywhere Should Be Like This"

November 1, 2011

State Board of Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

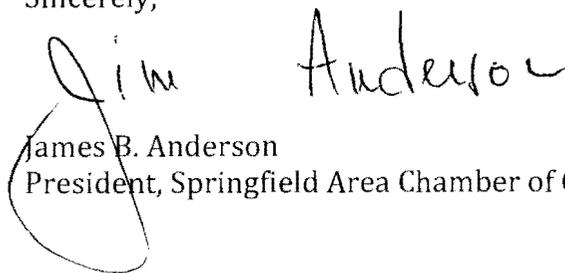
Dear State Education Leaders:

I am writing to express the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce's support for an important effort being undertaken by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education—the Top 10 by 20 initiative. Making Missouri's public education system one of the Top 10 in the country is crucial to the future of our state.

We applaud the work that the Department, the State Board of Education and educators across Missouri have done over the past two decades to steadily improve education in our state. As we look ahead, we believe that increased access to quality programs in early childhood education is the key to creating successful graduates who can compete nationally and internationally.

A well-trained, highly qualified workforce is vital to making Missouri a destination for the high-paying, high-skill jobs of the future. Reaching the Top 10 will lead to the prosperity and success that Missouri expects.

Sincerely,

  
James B. Anderson  
President, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce