



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

July 1, 2011

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome the 2011 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship here to Battle Creek. This exciting event gives some of the world's top balloonists an opportunity to showcase their skills, and allows countless spectators to share in the wonderment of hot air ballooning. Thank you to the local leaders, teams and volunteers who put in the hard work and effort that allows this great event to take flight.

As a Battle Creek native, I know the Cereal City is very proud to host this championship once again and to be a place synonymous with innovation. From balloons in the sky to the Underground Railroad monument, thousands come to Battle Creek and Calhoun County to enjoy the distinctive things that make the area special. We simply have it all. No matter if you've grown up with Battle Creek ballooning or if this is your first visit here, we know you'll enjoy your time.

To the pilots, crews and volunteers, the people of Michigan wish you blue skies and best wishes for a safe and memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Snyder".

Rick Snyder
Governor