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## Mr. President: Say yes

By Nichole M. Christian, Free Press Editorial Writer

With Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and 40 other big business brains bound for the National Summit June 15-17 at Ford Field, how could the nation's top CEO stay away?

The Detroit Economic Club is convening the summit as a high-level economic policy dialogue aimed at some industry titans. Spending time on the ground in Detroit, America's most economically distressed city, and state, would give President Obama a more personal view of the kinds of policy decisions needed to get a grip on the nation's decline. The other big reason for him to be here: the summit's agenda reads like a carbon copy of what he's described as his top priorities: improving global competitiveness, technology, energy development and the environment, among other things. "It's time ... to define America's future in a global economy," proclaims the official website for the summit.

Of course having sat through a fair share of summits in my time, I can understand why he might stay away. Talk is cheap and easy. Results take time and focus. Still it's equally true that these economic times are just strange enough to maybe turn some of the talk into innovative engine starters.

And while Detroit has the attention of so many leaders, government officials should seize the moment to show off a few of Metro Detroit's gems, like Tech Town and its economic needs too. A Microsoft hub in Motown? Okay, that maybe too much wishful thinking.

But big thinking, with or without Obama's presence, is what this summit is supposed to be about, right?