

Good Evening,

My name is David LaMontaine. I am a retired Deputy Sheriff and former Marine. I am a first-generation farmer and serve on the Riga Township board. I am writing to you as I cannot attend your mtg tomorrow on such short notice.

The bills you are contemplating today are to me, as anti-American as you can get. Government derives its power from the consent of the governed. It is the very pillar of our way of life. Like you, I serve a constituency, many of whom do not support large scale wind and solar in our communities. Our community has been beset by various special interests seeking to make a buck off the hard-earned farm ground in Lenawee County. Sure, it is flat and without trees, this was not the way it always was. Hard work and determination made it so.

Now for reasons that defy understanding the state is considering the removal of the people's power to control how their communities will look like. Townships have had local control for over 50 years.

How soon we have forgotten the pandemic and the food insecurity. We grow food on some of the most fertile ground in the state.

I will leave you to ponder these words, they may ring familiar to you.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,