

Molly Wingrove

From: David Schimmel <david.schimmel01@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:23 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel mining - HB 4526, 4527 and 4528 - opposition testimony for the committee minutes

Molly,

I am a resident of Leland, MI. I would like to share my opposition to HB 4526, 4527 and 4528. Please include my testimony in your committee meeting minutes.

I have spent my 40-year career in the commercial and civil construction industry. So, I fully support the intelligent development of infrastructure. Infrastructure development needs available materials and resources. So, I support the mining and transportation of materials to create infrastructure.

Private industry is very good at working with local governments to find profitable ways to run mines, gravel pits and transportation businesses. Our current legal environment provides a good balance between local regulation, business opportunity and environmental protection. There are no barriers for a smart business to find a suitable location to profitably run an extraction business in Michigan.

HB 4526, 4527 and 4528 remove the good balance created by current law. It effectively removes local regulation. In addition to being contrary to the importance of good local government, it is simply not necessary. Smart businesses are working with the current legal framework very nicely. Materials are available for important infrastructure projects. Intelligently run mining and extraction businesses are profitable. Poorly run or marginal businesses are not doing well, but this is healthy for a competitive industry. Let's not start unnecessary government bailouts for poorly run businesses in Michigan.

Please keep the balanced legal framework in place and encourage a no vote on HB 4526, 4527 and 4528.

Molly, I appreciate your help.

Thank you.

Regards,

David Schimmel
400 N. Lake Street
Leland, MI 49654

Molly Wingrove

From: Jeffrey Fisher <fisherjef2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: re: House Bill#s: 4526,4527,4528

Dear Ms. Wingrove:

I am writing to ask for you to please include my testimony to your committee that my wife and I are opposed to the aggregate mining bills mentioned above.

My daughter lives 1/2 mile away, near Empire, MI, from several and would soon be surrounded by them, should these bills be passed. Her home and property value would be severely compromised as a result. There is also the issue of environmental impact in sensitive geographical areas in Leelanau County that would have an effect, not only on the local economy, but become an eyesore with the destruction of local wildlife which draws in tourist. Nothing like a gravel mine next to a winery or cherry orchards!

Please let the committee know that it is imperative to let the local government entities make the decisions as to where the mining should be done.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jeff & Nancy Fisher
Leland, MI

Molly Wingrove

From: George Felton <feltongearge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:40 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Molly,

Betsy Coffia suggested that I write to you. I strongly oppose these bills. I would like you to include my testimony in the Regulatory Reform Committee minutes.

I live right up against two of Elmer's gigantic gravel mining operations, see their destruction of the environment, yet have no say in the matter. Shouldn't the people who live in a community determine that community's affairs?

I quote from Leelanau Conservancy's message because I believe every word:

"Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. Mining could be permitted as close as 400 ft. from any home, business or school. And, under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), **the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.**"

"Given the irrevocable impacts of these destructive industrial activities, I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved."

Thank you.

George Felton
11425 S Rolling Meadow Drive
Maple City, MI 49664

Molly Wingrove

From: Alex Finnegan <alex.j.finnegan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:41 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Opposition to House Bills 4526,4527, and 4528

Please note my testimony in the committee meeting minutes.

To Molly Wingrove,

It is with great urgency that I am writing in regards to House Bills 4526,4527, and 4528. As a property owner in Leelanau County, if these bills are passed, I have grave concerns that local communities will lose their decision making powers to decide if they want to allow additional gravel and sand mining in their communities. Surface mining operations have a negative impact on the local agricultural economy, ecological integrity, scenic beauty and drinking water. Our county is full of precious natural resources and we have a National Lakeshore Park. We all have a collective responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources in our county and state. This responsibility needs to start at the local level.

Please do not pass these bills.

Thank you for your consideration -

Alex Finnegan, CPA

Molly Wingrove

From: David Nycz ii <ferrisstate89@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:31 PM
To: Molly Wingrove

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community and state.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully Submitted, Melissa Nycz

Molly Wingrove

From: Jeanie Williams <jraewilliams@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 7:59 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Opposition to House bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

I am writing to voice my opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528, which puts control of sand and gravel mining under state control. As a resident of a region where this is a common operation, it is essential that local communities determine the rules of operation that will balance the mine's needs with the needs of the local residents. Every community is different and because mining is a disruptive operation, each community should have the opportunity to voice and enact their preferences.

Trust local governance. I ask our legislators to oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Thank you,
Jeanette Williams
Suttons Bay, MI

Molly Wingrove

From: Christy Stapleton <christykandel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel Mining Bills

Hello Molly Wingrove,

I would like to voice my opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528. These bills threaten our resources, agriculture, tourism industry and quality of life here in Leelanau County. I urge you to vote no on these bills and leave it to local decision making when it comes to new sand and gravel mining. Please take my concerns into consideration when deciding what is right.

I would like my testimony included in the committee meeting minutes as well.

Thank you,
Christy Stapleton

Molly Wingrove

From: Katherine Finnegan <katherinefinnegan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: STOP HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528!!!

Dear Clerk Wingrove,

It is with great urgency that I am writing in regards to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. As a property owner in Leelanau County, if these bills are passed, I have grave concerns that local communities will lose their decision making powers to decide if they want to allow additional gravel and sand mining in their communities. Surface mining operations have a negative impact on the local agricultural economy, ecological integrity, scenic beauty and drinking water. Our county is full of precious natural resources and we have a National Lakeshore Park. We all have a collective responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources in our county and state. This responsibility needs to start at the local level.

Please do not pass these bills. Please include my testimony in the committee meeting minutes.

Thank you for your consideration -

Katherine Finnegan

Zip Code: 49664

Molly Wingrove

From: Mary Finnegan <marfinnegan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:06 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Opposition to House Bills 4526,4527 and 4528

Please note my testimony in the committee meeting minutes!

To Molly Wingrove,

I am a landowner in Leelanau County and I am writing, with great urgency, to let you know that I am opposed to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. I feel that local communities should have decision making powers to decide how to handle the natural resources in their own communities and counties. They should be allowed to decide if they want to allow additional gravel and sand mining in their communities. Surface mining operations have a negative impact on the local agricultural economy, ecological integrity, scenic beauty and drinking water. Our county is full of precious natural resources and we have a National Lakeshore Park. We all have a collective responsibility to be good stewards of our natural resources in our county and state. This responsibility needs to start at the local level. Please do not support these bills.

Thank you for your consideration!

Mary Finnegan
7900 S Dunns Farm Rd
Maple City, MI 49664

Sent from my iPad

Molly Wingrove

From: Theresa Burkhart <theresawburkhart@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:25 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528

Good morning Molly,

I wanted to write to you today to ask you to please join me in opposing House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. I would like my testimony to be included in the committee meeting minutes. As a resident of Leelanau County who lives on the border of Empire Township and Kasson Township, I think these bills would be detrimental to our area if they are allowed to move out of committee. Residents of Leelanau County and Kasson Township have worked extremely hard over the course of several decades to create a specific gravel mining district that is regulated by the local Kasson Township Zoning Board. The board has made sure that our area has more than adequate gravel resources available that are needed for residential and commercial use. The zoning master plan also ensures that gravel mining does not extend beyond what is needed or causes deleterious effects on our fragile ecosystem and the Glen Lake watershed. With the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore within our county, there is a vested local interest in preserving the environment for future generations. If these bills are passed, they would undo the hard work that has been done by Kasson Township and remove the rights of local citizens to have a say in the use and protection of our home. I do not believe that the residents of Leelanau County are anti-gravel. However, I can speak for myself and other residents in saying that we are against the seizure of local authority, especially on this issue.

I understand that this is a complex issue. If you would like to learn more about how this issue specifically impacts our community, I invite you to review the most recent Kasson Township Master Plan (especially Chapter 5) https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/master_plan_v4_1.pdf I think you will find in this document that the Kasson Township Zoning Board has proven that they can take appropriate leadership and make decisions that have the public's best interest at heart in the event that state leadership attempts to usurp township decisions. You may also be interested in reviewing Edith Kyser v Kasson Township in which the Michigan Supreme Court found that there would be "very serious consequences" if Kasson township zoning laws were changed in order to allow gravel mining beyond the currently defined gravel district <https://law.justia.com/cases/michigan/supreme-court/2010/20100715-s136680-114-kyser-op.html>

I appreciate your time and attention to these issues of great concern.

Best,
Theresa Burkhart
(231) 357-4070

Molly Wingrove

From: Gray, Michael <michael.gray@navistardefense.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:15 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Cc: Rep. Betsy Coffia (District 103)
Subject: FW: House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

As suggested by Rep. Coffia – I would like my opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528 by included in the committee meeting minutes

As a resident of Kasson Township and a homeowner within a mile of the Elmer's Gravel pits on South Batz and Fritz Rd that continue to grow at an alarming pace – I strongly oppose removing the permitting responsibility from the local governments and turning the decision over to EGLE – who I'm sure does not have me or my families best interest in mind.

I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

I ask that you oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 introduced recently

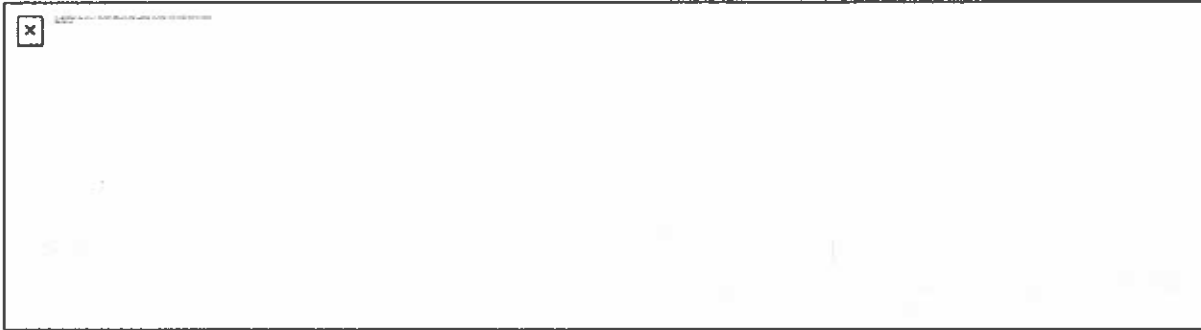
Regards

M

Michael G. Gray
Sr VP of Business Development
Navistar Defense LLC
Michael.gray@navistardefense.com
M: 1-586-337-6632

From: Representative Betsy Coffia <betsycoffia@house.mi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Gray, Michael <michael.gray@navistardefense.com>
Cc: dc04928@hotmail.com
Subject: re: House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Caution: This email originated from outside of Navistar Defense or is from a non-trusted source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.



Michael,

Thank you for reaching out and for sharing your input! Rep. Coffia also does not support the aggregate mining bills -- House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 -- as currently written and is working with local officials and stakeholder groups such as the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters to make the voices of impacted communities and residents heard.

As these bills are currently in the House Regulatory Reform Committee, which Rep. Coffia doesn't sit on and therefore she will not be able to vote on them at this time, we are instructing folks that the best way to advocate at the moment is to email the committee's clerk, Molly Wingrove (MWingrove@house.mi.gov), with your opposition and note that you would like to include your testimony in the committee meeting minutes. We encourage you to do this as soon as possible so your testimony can be considered before the committee votes on the bills.

Thank you so much for your advocacy and please let us know if you have any questions or if you need anything else!

Sincerely,

Betsy Coffia
Representative, District 103

Contact Me

State Representative Betsy Coffia

House Office Building, South Tower

13th Floor, Room 1387

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Phone: (517) 373-3817

Fax: (517) 373-5495

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Molly Wingrove

From: Paula Jo Kemler <pjkemler@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Aggregate Mining Bills

Ms. Wingrove,

I am writing to express dismay over the proposed aggregate mining bills, House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528.

Local governments must have a voice in halting the devastation of their communities for the financial benefit of a few non-residents.

My comments can be included in the committee meeting minutes.

Thank you,

Paula Jo Kemler

Molly Wingrove

From: Betsy <nightingale.betsy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); Rep. Jerry Neyer (District 92); Molly Wingrove
Cc: ronniepeterson@house.mi.gov
Subject: Fwd: GRAVEL MINE LEGISLATION

I was shocked to hear on the radio this morning that you may approve House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 legislation. Please do not do that. The local governments, the public and environmental organizations need the ability to be involved in land use and environmental decisions in their communities. Further the limits placed on mine operations in these bills are much too lenient- excessive noise and and proximity to property boundaries would impair wildlife ability to exist in areas and the public's availing to enjoy the environment - which is a primary reason why people visits and live in Michigan. This legislation would eliminate adequate public involvement and is wrong.

Elizabeth Nightingale
300 W Clark Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI

Molly Wingrove

From: Jessica Tess <jtess.aiki@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:24 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel mining bills - 4526, 4527, and 4528

Molly Wingrove,

Last Thursday, Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 were introduced as a three-bill package. These bills threaten our local communities' rights over having the last word on whether to allow new sand and gravel surface mines. Given the irrevocable impacts of these destructive industrial activities, I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

I oppose this legislation until these bills are re-written to allow for local-decision making. Please include my testimony in the committee meeting minutes to be considered before the committee votes on these bills.

Thank you,
Jessica Tess-Navarro
344 Orchardale Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(810) 813-1034

Molly Wingrove

From: mpetters27@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:30 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

Betsy Coffia, my representative in the State House, recommended I forward to you my concerns about the above mentioned bills.

It has come to my attention that the above mentioned bills may be voted upon this week. As a resident of Leelanau County, I feel the committee should be aware that I am much opposed to these bills.

These bills threaten our local communities' rights over having the last word on whether to allow new sand and gravel surface mines. Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water.

Under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.

Given the irrevocable impacts of these destructive industrial activities, I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. Please vote no on these bills.

Sincerely,

Mary Petterson

*Home: 231.709.6859
Cell: 616.752.0456*

Molly Wingrove

From: Wendy McKay <wendymck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Mining

I am opposed to the mining plan for Leelanau county. I am a Michigan voter. Thank you Wendy McKay

Sent from my iPad

Molly Wingrove

From: dave pejsa <davidpejsa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Fw: gravel pits

Dave & Judi Pejsa
Glen Arbor

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Representative Betsy Coffia <betsycoffia@house.mi.gov>
To: Judith Ann Pejsa <davidpejsa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 03:04:05 PM EDT
Subject: re: gravel pits



Dave and Judi,

Thank you for reaching out and for sharing your input! Rep. Coffia also does not support the aggregate mining bills -- House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 -- as currently written and is working with local officials and stakeholder groups such as the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters to make the voices of impacted communities and residents heard.

As these bills are currently in the House Regulatory Reform Committee, which Rep. Coffia doesn't sit on and therefore she will not be able to vote on them at this time, we are instructing folks that the best way to advocate at the moment is to email the committee's clerk, Molly Wingrove (MWingrove@house.mi.gov), with your opposition and note that you would like to include your testimony in the committee meeting minutes. We encourage you to do this as soon as possible so your testimony can be considered before the committee votes on the bills.

Thank you so much for your advocacy and please let us know if you have any questions or if you need anything else!

Sincerely,

Betsy Coffia
Representative, District 103



Molly Wingrove

From: George Felton <feltongearge@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Fwd: HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528

I hope you received this and will take it seriously.
Thank you.

Begin forwarded message:

From: George Felton <feltongearge@gmail.com>
Subject: HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528
Date: May 9, 2023 at 4:39:44 PM EDT
To: MWingrove@house.mi.gov

Dear Molly,

Betsy Coffia suggested that I write to you. I strongly oppose these bills. I would like you to include my testimony in the Regulatory Reform Committee minutes.

I live right up against two of Elmer's gigantic gravel mining operations, see their destruction of the environment, yet have no say in the matter. Shouldn't the people who live in a community determine that community's affairs?

I quote from Leelanau Conservancy's message because I believe every word:

"Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. Mining could be permitted as close as 400 ft. from any home, business or school. And, under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), **the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.**"

"Given the irrevocable impacts of these destructive industrial activities, I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved."

Thank you.

George Felton
11425 S Rolling Meadow Drive
Maple City, MI 49664

Molly Wingrove

From: Molly Crimmins <mkcrimmins@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 2:24 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House bills 4526,4527 and4528

Opposed to these gravel mining bills. They are bad for the environment and bad for home owner/property owners in Michigan. Having the thought that a mining operation could be so close to homes, will really take property values down. These bills are bad for all of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Crimmins
Leland, MI

Molly Wingrove

From: Sue Jennings <suejennings6@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:25 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: MI House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

I understand the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee is meeting to discuss the above subject bills. I am a constituent and am writing to ask the Committee to vote "No" on all three of the subject house bills. Please include my remarks below in the committee meeting minutes so the members are aware of my concerns prior to their vote. Thank you kindly:

Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, adds to noise/dust and unsafe roads (with large trucks which are often speeding down country roads--as a cyclist in Leelanau and Benzie Counties I have first hand experience and have had to curtail my cycling route for my own safety).

Additionally, there is a potential impact to our drinking water. Mining could be permitted as close as 400 ft. from any home, business or school. And, under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.

I realize roads and infrastructure are important. At the same time, there are already numerous large sand and gravel surface mining operations in Leelanau and elsewhere in Northern Michigan. Why do we need more--what direct benefit does this give to the citizens of Leelanau, Benzie and Grand Traverse County compared to the environmental and social costs?

Thank you!

Sue Jennings
19317 Beechridge Dr
Lake Ann, MI 49650