

February 27, 2020

SUPPORT FOR HB 5550

1. INTRO

Chairman Sheppard, Vice Chair Cole, Vice Chair Grieg and members of the Government Operations Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Renze Hoeksema, Vice President of Corporate and Government Affairs for DTE Energy, and I'm here this morning to testify in support of HB 5550.

2. BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

DTE Energy is a member of the CEO Group, representing 15 companies in Southeast Michigan. I have attached a letter from the CEO Group members that endorses HB 5229, but is just as applicable to this morning's hearing. We endorse this amendment to the Regional Transit Authority Act. It will facilitate investments and improvements to the transit plan in the Detroit region and surrounding communities.

As some of the largest employers in Southeast Michigan, we recognize the importance of high-quality, mass transit to connect workers to jobs, to enable employers to meet their workforce needs, and to fostering a more economically competitive region. Improving mass transit is one of the most important steps we can take to expand opportunity, support growth, and enhance our quality of life.

This legislation will enable local leaders to work collaboratively, and engage the communities they represent, on an enhanced mass transit plan that supports our shared growth aspirations for the region, and for Michigan. We urge your support of HB 5550. And we urge the full support of the House of Representatives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

December 5, 2019

The Honorable Jack O'Malley, Chair
The Honorable Gary Eisen, Vice Chair
The Honorable Tim Sneller, Minority Vice Chair
House Committee on Transportation
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman O'Malley and Vice Chairs Eisen and Sneller,

On behalf of the CEO Group, representing 15 companies in Southeast Michigan, we write in support of House Bill 5229, which would amend the Municipal Partnership Act. The legislation would facilitate consideration of a multi-county transit plan in Metro Detroit and other municipal partnerships.

As leaders of several of the largest businesses in Southeast Michigan, we know firsthand the importance of high-quality, mass transit to connect workers to jobs, enable employers to meet workforce needs, and make our region more economically competitive. Improving mass transit is one of the most important steps we can take to expand opportunity and enhance the quality of life in Metro Detroit.

These amendments would allow interested counties and the City of Detroit to work together on a collaborative mass transit plan and, subject to the approval of the legislative bodies in each jurisdiction, present that plan to the voters for their consideration and approval.

In short, this legislation will create a flexible tool for new local partnerships on mass transit, while retaining authority and accountability where it belongs – with local communities and the voters.

We are proud to support HB 5229.

Sincerely,

Gerry Anderson
Executive Chairman
DTE Energy Company

Mary Barra
Chairman & CEO
General Motors Company

Matt Cullen
Chief Executive Officer
Bedrock

David Dauch
Chairman & CEO
American Axle

Joe Hinrichs
President – Automotive
Ford Motor Company

Chris Ilitch
President & CEO
Ilitch Holdings

Wright Lassiter III
President & CEO
Henry Ford Health System

Daniel J. Loepf
President & CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI

Richard A. Manoogian
Chairman Emeritus
Masco Corporation

Chip McClure
Managing Partner
Michigan Capital Advisors

Jim Nicholson
Chairman
PVS Chemicals

Cindy Pasky
President & CEO
Strategic Staffing Solutions

Roger Penske
Chairman
Penske Corporation

Mark Reuss
President
General Motors Company

Ray Scott
President & CEO
Lear Corporation

cc: The Honorable Lee Chatfield
The Honorable Christine Greig
The Honorable Jason Sheppard
Members, House Committee on Transportation