

October 25, 2019

House Regulatory Reform Committee
P.O. Box 3014
Lansing MI, 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Webber and Committee Members:

The City of Grosse Pointe is requesting your support and co-sponsorship of HB 4691, offered by Rep. Michael Webber, which authorizes the establishment of Stormwater Utilities.

Funding infrastructure - especially underground infrastructure - may be one of the largest challenges that local governments face. More than ever, we realize the impact that stormwater has on the quality of surface water. We must be much more deliberate in our approach to managing stormwater.

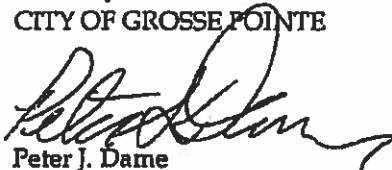
For decades, communities have funded stormwater systems through water and sewer rates, general funds and, to a large extent, grants from state and federal governments. As environmental stewardship has become a higher priority and regulatory programs have expanded, local governments are being asked to address many stormwater management challenges. This, in turn, has created questions as to whether stormwater systems can be funded through utility fees, or whether they must be funded through property taxes. With federal grants eliminated, and nowhere else to turn, many Michigan cities have and are facing lawsuits by funding stormwater improvements from water and sewer enterprise funds.

HB 4691 establishes the ability of local governments to create stormwater utilities. This legislation will be critical to local government efforts to improve the quality of our rivers and the Great Lakes. The legislation will allow local governments to replace aging infrastructure, implement stormwater treatment systems, and - what may be the biggest challenge of all - reduce localized flooding by building additional capacity to better handle major rain events.

The passage of HB 4691 will enable us to address the critical issue of managing our stormwater system in a timely manner and allow us to improve coordination on above- and below-ground infrastructure projects in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE


Peter J. Dame
City Manager