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RE: Public Comment on HB 4052

To: Commerce & Trade Standing Committee, Clerk mabdul@house.mi.gov
Committee Chair Joe Graves jgraves@house.mi.gov
Minority vice chair Andy Schor: aschor@house.mi.gov

We submit these comments in consideration of HB 4052.

All Michigan communities are not the same. Our communities wrestle with different challenges related to economic development and have different needs. We face different issues in attracting good companies with good-paying jobs for residents and under terms suitable for our local contexts.

Our coalition represents an area that hosts multiple industries in Southwest Detroit for the state's economy and also bears the greatest pollution and impacts to quality of life associated with the industry. Our coalition specifically has been working to represent concerns of the community that would be affected by the development of the New International Trade Crossing and has worked over several years to protect the interests of the affected community. Our over 800-members represent residents, businesses, churches and organizations.

Our coalition is very concerned about the passage of any legislation which limits the ability for local communities to negotiate community benefits in exchange for hosting developments, or any infringement on a local municipality to negotiate appropriate and effective conditions for the affected community.

Every community is different and developments need to fit our communities. We must retain our local right to negotiate mutually beneficial development terms that are suitable to local economic development needs. Local communities that face large developments especially need direct local involvement in determining development tools and needs.

Scott Brines, President
Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition