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May 19, 2015

House Commerce and Trade Committee
Attn: Rep. Joseph Graves, Chair
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

RE: Opposition to HB 4052

Dear Members of the House Commerce and Trade Committee:

Thank you for registering my respectful opposition to HB 4052. The bill as currently proposed clearly infringes on the time-honored respect for local control. In addition, the bill raises questions about its impact on local control over existing zoning, economic development and tax abatement agreements and negotiations. All of which are tools that Kalamazoo, and other communities, have used to grow economically in partnership with local businesses and developers.

Most concerning are the provisions of HB 4052 which will impact our community's non-discrimination ordinance. The citizens of the City of Kalamazoo enacted a non-discrimination ordinance in 2009 which prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This ordinance was overwhelmingly supported by voters. Having anti-discrimination protections for all in our community has proven to be good business for Kalamazoo, as it has for the vast majority of Fortune 500 companies which have similar personnel policies and protections.

We urge committee members to vote "NO" on House Bill 4052.

Supporting the Journey,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby J. Hopewell", is written over the typed name and title.

Bobby J. Hopewell
Mayor