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From: Dawn Bilobran <dawn.bilobran@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 5233/ SB 720 URGENT TESTIMONY

Dear Representative Chatfield,

I am writing to formally express my condemnation for the proposed amendments to PA 169 of 1970, introduced as SB 720 and HB 5232. This legislation will drastically undermine the establishment of historic districts in Michigan and creates unnecessary challenges to maintaining them. Historic districts **OUTPERFORM** their non-designated neighbors with higher property values, greater resident retention and increased civic engagement. Our historic buildings and communities are not only a great source of pride, but they are also successful generators of sustainable economic impacts through existing building rehabilitation, job creation and expansion of the existing tax base.

This legislation abandons policies and procedures that are working to strengthen Michigan's communities. This is not an area which requires this type of reform! The proposed changes to PA 169 will completely undermine the intentions of this important empowering legislation. It appears, especially when one takes into consideration the unique rush to get this to testimony, to be political positioning to serve private interests. This is exactly what our elected officials ought **NOT** to be doing. Historic Preservation puts Michiganders to work, retains talent and attracts new investment. Studies indicate that younger individuals are attracted to living in areas that have a sense of place, unique architecture, are walkable and dense. Historic districts are the desired place to put down roots for these individuals - how will Michigan compete to attract talent when our historic districts have been decimated?

I urge the complete rejection of this legislation as it will cause drastic and potentially irreversible harm to Michigan's current and future historic districts. Our citizens deserve a representative body that recognizes when political maneuvering and personal agenda is driving a process that is not in the best interest of Michigan. As such, I hope that I can count on your support.

Sincerely,
Dawn Bilobran
Detroit, MI

Vice President, Preservation Detroit
Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Board of Directors Belle Isle Conservancy, Board of Directors