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From: Michelle Lyons <mickeylyons@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Preservation Detroit
Cc: Digging Detroit
Subject: In protest of Amendment HB 5232/SB 720 to Public Act 169

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Because this amendment was introduced just yesterday and is being voted on today, I have had little time to marshal an eloquent protest to the proposed HB 5232/SB 720 to Public Act 169. Here, briefly, is my protest to this amendment:

This obscene piece of legislation would undo decades of community involvement and would render entire historic districts, as well as seriously jeopardized single historic properties, helpless to the whims of the people and corporations that we've been trying to protect them from all along. It completely removes the voice of preservationists and the "little guys" from the preservation process.

Local historic districts are under constant fire from developers, large corporations, and single property owners who rarely if ever have the interests of historical preservation in mind. This is why we need, and have always needed, preservation societies who have passionate and hard-earned knowledge about the historic properties and districts within the state of Michigan. They help protect communities against slum landlords and against land-grabbing developers with far deeper pockets and more lobbying power.

Keeping history local matters. It matters to the people who live in Michigan's local historic districts, and it matters to the economy of the state. Without historic districts and historic properties, Detroit in particular (where I live) would not have the burgeoning tourism industry we finally see developing.

Please, vote against this act and listen to the many volunteers who have quietly but fiercely been fighting to preserve and restore our historic districts for so long.

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