



October 7, 2015

Michigan State House of Representatives
Local Government Committee
Committee Chair Representative Chatfield
Room 307, House Office Building
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Chairperson Chatfield and Members of the Local Government Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Michigan Downtown Association (MDA) the opportunity to meet with you today and share comments from the many stakeholders with regard to TIF reform. I wish I were able to be there with you in person.

The Downtown Development Authority is a very important part of the quality of life for residents in Van Buren Township. The DDA has been a key component to fostering a partnerships between public and private entities within our community. Most notably, the DDA has been able to partner with Wayne County to maximize funds to make infrastructure improvements that would otherwise never have occurred.

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority values each and every person who visits our downtown district and we are focused on the enhancement of economic growth and social well-being. One of our goals is to make our downtown walkable, bike able and business friendly. To meet this goal we have been completing walkways and pathways to allow convenient access to the businesses in our DDA District. Additionally, we are working on a project that will help preserve and maintain Van Buren Township's rich history in our downtown as part of our "PlaceMaking Initiative".

I would urge you to continue including the MDA in any of your future discussions as they are a valuable resource with a broad reaching membership. There has been much discussion on "transparency;" and I would humbly request that you allow the MDA to work with you on proposed and existing language for the TIF legislation. Together, through education and conversation, we will be able to ensure **compliance**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Ireland".

Susan Ireland, Executive Director
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