

FRANK HAMILTON
NORWOOD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
P.O. Box 113
CHARLEVOIX, MICHIGAN 49720

January 10, 2014

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members. My name is Frank Hamilton and I am Supervisor of Norwood Township. Unfortunately, I am unable to be with you today, but have asked Susan Schlaybaugh to read my testimony.

First, thank you for taking up this important piece of legislation. It will permit Norwood Township the opportunity to leverage our voted millage with a loan that will enable us to bid out road work at one time. This action will stop the deterioration of our roads, encourage more bidders and decrease the number of mobilization charges. It is 100 percent voluntary between a County Commission and Township.

Norwood Township is unique as it has over five miles of prime Lake Michigan shoreline in Fisherman's Island State Park from which we only receive PLT monies (Payment in lieu of taxes). This amounts to approximately \$2.00 per acre. As Norwood currently receives \$45,000 per one mill it makes it difficult to fix our roads.

The voters approved a 10-year one mill levy for roads a year ago. We have inventoried the local roads in Norwood with the assistance of the Charlevoix County Road Commission Engineer and have an estimate of approximately \$400,000 to get our roads back into acceptable condition. Unfortunately, we currently have approximately \$150,000 in our road fund.

Norwood Township would like to borrow against the revenue provided by the millage, along with the money currently in our road fund account. This would allow us to let over half a million dollars for road work on six roads. If we spend the money we currently have it will allow us to fix one road. Several of these roads will continue to deteriorate for as long as seven or eight years. It will be more expensive to fix them and some might even have to be turned back to gravel.

Charlevoix County has a long history of loaning money to the County Road Commission with a pre loan agreed upon repayment schedule.

The language in Rep. Cole's bill is permissive, not mandatory. Norwood Township will guarantee to pay back the note with "voted" millage. There is no risk to the County.

Thank you for your time. Please help Norwood Township by supporting H.B. 5261.

Frank Hamilton, Supervisor
Norwood Township
(231) 675-5440