

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Susan and Rich van Houten <susanandrich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 12:04 PM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: Opposition to HB 5232

Dear Ms. Terrien,

I am writing to record my opposition to HB 5232.

My wife and I have owned a home in the Heritage Hill district of Grand Rapids for 20 years. We have enjoyed the benefits of living in a designated historic district, and invested significant amounts of money in preserving our home in accordance with federal state and local guidelines.

Some of the provisions of HB 5232 put in danger the designation of our district as a federal district, and thus limit the possible tax credits we could gain from historic preservation. We see our rights as property owners infringed by this bill and strongly protest.

This concern is in addition to our concern about a 10-year sunset clause on historic districts, another provision that would subject us to repeated campaigns by outside interests seeking a quick profit from some property in our district. Such profits would likely come at our expense, since modern development in our neighborhood would only lower our property values.

Historic designation has brought us benefits in value, safety and beauty that should not be destroyed by an ill-considered attempt to change it.

Richard L. van Houten
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