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To the members of the House Committee on Local Government:

I am writing to protest HB 5232, in either its original or its amended form, as a hypocritical piece of legislation.

HB 5232 was introduced with the purpose of protecting individual property rights from what Rep. Afendoulis sees as the over-reaching powers of historic districts to maintain the authenticity of Michigan's designated architectural resources.

Focusing solely on the property rights of those who want to inappropriately alter historic district buildings leaves out an important part of the equation: individual property owners who *want* to protect their investment via historic designation.

Under the banner of individual property owners' rights, Afendoulis' bill totally disregards the significant efforts that individual property owners have undertaken to secure historic designation for their communities, denying these individuals the ability to stand up for their property rights via working toward a historic district.

The current process works already without trampling on anyone's rights, as recently demonstrated by Afendoulis' own constituents: wealthy East Grand Rapids residents who did not want their neighborhood to become a local historic district and successfully defeated the designation.

Please kill this bill in committee. It's not a defense of property rights—it's an attack on Michigan history.

Regards,
Maria Taylor