



Mayor's Office

Daniel S. Paletko
Mayor

To: Local Government Committee

From: Hon. Daniel Paletko 

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 4033

I am Mayor Daniel Paletko and I serve as both Mayor of the City of Dearborn Heights as well as Chair of the Downriver Joint Management Committee for the Wyandotte Waste Water Treatment Plant. I am here today to voice my support for HB 4033.

The 13 communities that make up the drainage district have contributed millions of dollars to fund the construction and operation of the Treatment Plant. Wayne County which operates the Plant on behalf of the communities has not contributed anything. Wayne County has been fully compensated if not over compensated for all operating, maintenance and management costs. Since 1962, the thirteen communities have been obligated to retire more than 400 million dollars of debt for the Downriver System. The communities have an additional 140 million dollars still outstanding. This is why we have continued to cry out that we (the 13 communities) do not wish to pay for something a second time. If the system were to be sold, someone would have to pay the amount so the buyer could recover their cost, and we believe that someone would be the 13 communities. That is simply not fair!

Under Public Act 185, I do not believe it was ever created with the intent to allow a County in Michigan to sell or transfer a publicly owned sewer system to a private entity let alone allow a County to sell such assets and recoup the money from a sale of facilities that were paid for by others. Consequently, I believe HB 4033 is in keeping with the original intent of Public Act 185.

Therefore I urge the support of this committee for the adoption of HB 4033.