

CITY OF SAGINAW

City Clerk, 1315 S. Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601 – 989.759.1480



May 10, 2016

House Tax Policy Committee
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: House Bill 5578

House Tax Policy Committee:

The enclosed resolution #2016-024 was approved by the Saginaw City Council at the regular meeting held on May 9, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Santos".

Janet Santos, CMMC/CMC/MMC
City Clerk

enclosure

SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5578 - DARK STORE BILL

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Kloc, seconded by Council Member Moore to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Big Box Stores are taking advantage of loopholes in the taxable value appraisal process by having their stores compared to closed, vacant properties for the purposes of establishing their value, known as the "Dark Store Tax Loophole"; and

WHEREAS: this loophole has cost more than \$75 million in local taxes that cities, counties, townships and school districts would have otherwise been used to provide essential government services and public education, according to the Michigan Association of County Treasurers; and

WHEREAS: the City Council for the City of Saginaw recognizes that, in addition to blowing holes in Michigan local government and local school district budgets, the "Dark Store assessments" are creating tax advantages for big retailers over other businesses; and

WHEREAS: leveraging common sense and fairness, the property value of a store that is open for business should not be influenced by a store that is closed for business and is vacant; and

WHEREAS: the City of Saginaw, and every municipality in the State of Michigan relies heavily on property tax revenue to fund local government services; and

WHEREAS: it is vital that the loophole that exists for Big Box Stores or Dark Stores be closed to ensure equitable taxes for all uses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Saginaw Council members support House Bill 5578 in its efforts to work towards applying universally accepted appraisal standards when deciding larger property tax appeal cases; and that the City Clerk submit this resolution on behalf of the City Council to the Governor of Michigan and the appropriate parties in the Michigan legislature.

Ayes: Eight
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I, Janet Santos, City Clerk of the City of Saginaw, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the City of Saginaw, Saginaw County, State of Michigan, at a public meeting held on May 9, 2016; the original thereof is on file in the records of my office; the meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and minutes of this meeting were kept and will be made available as required.




Janet Santos, CMMC/CMC/MMC
City Clerk