



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

September 2, 2020

Dear Chairman Marino and Members, House Commerce and Tourism Committee:

We have talked regularly to our elected officials about the need for affordable housing in Macomb County and in Michigan. I am writing you today to urge you to support House Bills 5820-5821, legislation creating the Michigan Community Investment Pilot Program and creating the Michigan Community Investment Tax Credit.

As you know, very large community development projects have many tax incentives to attract investors. But small- to medium-sized neighborhood and rural community revitalization projects are often overlooked because they lack the same tools to attract investment.

House Bills 5820-5821 would create the Michigan Community Investment Pilot Program, a donation-based state tax incentive that would provide support for locally based revitalization work in neighborhoods and rural communities. Under the proposed legislation, a corporate or individual donor contributes directly to a place-based nonprofit such as Macomb County Habitat for eligible projects or activities, including:

- Small business development, including agri-business
- *Affordable housing*
- Financial empowerment
- Workforce attraction & retention
- *Neighborhood & community revitalization*
- Commercial corridor revitalization

In exchange, the donor receives a 50% state tax credit on their donation. As drafted, the bills would cap the program at \$25 million in donation-based tax credits, reflecting a minimum \$50 million in new, local investments. The proposed pilot program is based upon similar, successful programs in 14 other states.

**These bills are important to me because we regularly face the challenge of families paying way more than 30% of their monthly income for housing expenses, especially in rental situations. Finding new sources of donations to prepare smaller footprint or less expensive homes would enable us to give those families a solid financial foundation for the future.**

Again, I urge you to support these bills and make them a priority for passage this session. Thank you so much for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

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