



innovative by nature

Bryan K. Barnett  
Mayor

September 12, 2023

City Council

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District 1

David J. Blair  
District 2

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District 3

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District 4

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At-Large

Theresa Mungioni  
At-Large

David Walker  
At-Large

Chairman Fitzgerald & House Local Government & Municipal Finance Committee members,

The City of Rochester Hills would like to provide written testimony in support of House Bills #4894, #4895, and #4896 regarding the ability of local units of government throughout the State of Michigan to request reimbursement for Property Tax credits claimed by Disabled Veterans or their widow/widower.

It goes without saying that the City of Rochester Hills, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America all hold our military veterans and disabled veterans in the highest esteem and we are forever grateful for their service to our Country.

At issue is when the Michigan Legislature approved the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption a few years ago with little to no input from the local units of government throughout the State, all of whom rely heavily on property taxes to provide for governmental services such as Police, Fire, and Roads.

Unfortunately the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption is perceived as an Unfunded Mandate from the State of Michigan, and places unintended negative financial consequences on all local units of government throughout the State, which are straining to provide basic levels of service for their residents. House Bills #4894, #4895, and #4896 as presented provide for a much needed fix to address this unintended negative financial consequence for all local units of government in the State of Michigan.

If approved, the City of Rochester Hills would direct the reimbursed Disabled Veterans Property Tax credits to the very millages which have been hindered through the Exemption to essentially make them whole again. The reimbursed funding would go to support our City's Police, Fire, Roads, and a variety of other services such as Parks, Libraries, and Senior Centers all of which rely heavily on Property Taxes as a significant revenue source.

Thank you for your consideration of this priority issue for all of the local units of government throughout the entire State of Michigan.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Snyder  
Chief Financial Officer / City of Rochester Hills