

Committee: Roads and Economic Development

Location: Room 352, House Appropriations, State Capitol Building, Lansing, MI

Date: Tuesday, May 26th, 2015

Time: 9:00 AM

Chair: Representative Jeff Farrington

Agenda Items:

HB 4607 (Rep. Pettalia) State financing and management; funds; 21st century jobs fund; allow certain amount to be appropriated to the Michigan transportation fund.

HB 4608 (Rep. Chatfield) Economic development; Michigan strategic fund; certain amount to be appropriated to Michigan transportation fund; allow.

RE: Public Comment - in support of HB 4607 & HB 4608, and defunding the MEDC

Brian Colfer, **A Blind Man**, &

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) –Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) member from Macomb County

2167 E. 14 Mile Rd, Apt 101, Bldg. 9

Sterling Heights, MI 48310

586-795-0615

emo157@att.net

Jim Casha

207 North St. E., PO Box 308

Norwich, ON, Canada N0J 1P0

540-717-9240

jim.casha@gmail.com

We are here to testify in support of HB4607 & HB4608, and any other bill, to **defund the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)**.

When it comes to economic development, especially as related to **Transit-Oriented-Development (T.O.D.)**, the **MEDC** is an abject failure ...to put it kindly. **It is Pure Michigan ...Pure Michigan BS.**

Case in point, is the MEDC's handling of the transfer of the publicly owned **Michigan State Fairgrounds** property in Detroit. The 'transfer' of this property was spurred by legislation written by **Senator Virgil Smith, (P.A. 74 & 75 -2012)**. Written to 'appear' to facilitate getting the 'best deal for the state' on the transfer of this property, in reality, it was, just as Rep Tom McMillin stated in his 'no vote' explanation: **'just a way to transfer this land to the MEDC via the Land Bank, so it could be given to some well-connected individuals'**. Who just happen to be Virgil's 'friends'. **A blind man can 'see' this.**

Why does MICHIGAN need an organization like the MEDC? Done right, **The Fairgrounds 'Deal'** could be the best thing for transportation, and community development, in MI (the property should be transferred to the SE MI REGIONAL Transit Authority (RTA)). Done the **MEDC way** ...it's just another **'black-eye' for Michigan** transportation policy and economic development. **A 'Kwame style deal'**.