



Dear Chairman O'Malley, Minority Vice Chair Sneller, and members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 795 and SB 796. As General Manager of Mackinac Island Carriage Tours, Inc. and Vice Chair of the Mackinac Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, we represent a unique community with unique challenges and concerns. While we believe these bills have merit and benefits for the future of mobility in the state of Michigan, we are concerned with a provision included in each of the bills that would prevent Mackinac Island from properly ensuring the public safety of residents and visitors alike.

Mackinac Island's transportation options are unlike any other community in the state. With only a few emergency-related motor vehicles on the Island, horse-drawn carriages play an important role in the movement of people and cargo. While this preserves a tranquil, historic atmosphere on the Island, it also presents the challenge of ensuring that the Island's many horses do not injure people.

We take our responsibility to the public very seriously, and understand that horses may startle easily. To that end, the Island has enacted several narrowly-tailored ordinances to ensure the safe operation of horse-drawn carriages. As written, this bill package would prevent us from taking similar action with regards to advanced air mobility systems. We propose a narrowly-tailored amendment to each bill, adding the following language:

"A political subdivision that prohibits by ordinance, regulation, or resolution the operation of nonemergency motor vehicles in the political subdivision may enact and enforce an ordinance, regulation, or resolution that is necessary and proper to prohibit the knowing and intentional operation of an advanced air mobility system in a manner that interferes with the safe use of a horse in a commercial activity, including, but not limited to, the use of horse-drawn carriages, wagons, or carts or horse-riding activities."

This amendment will allow us protect the public while keeping the original intent of the legislation intact. We look forward to supporting this legislation with the aforementioned change. If there are any questions or concerns, we can be reached at bradchambers@mict.com and dcawthorne@kelley-cawthorne.com.

Sincerely,

Bradley Chambers
Mackinac Island
Carriage Tours, Inc.

Dennis Cawthorne
Mackinac Island Convention
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