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Dear Chair Scott, Vice Chair Andrews, Minority Vice Chair Wendzel, and Members of the House Energy, Communications, and Technology Committee,

The Michigan Municipal League is offering this letter in opposition to HB 5120-5123. Holistically, we view these bills as a far overreaching preemption of local governments' appropriate role to plan and zone for the best outcomes in our communities. Additionally, we struggle to see how this legislation's intention fits our membership's demographics.

The League represents Michigan cities and villages. Whether in urban or rural areas, our cities and villages are the state's most densely populated and structurally built-out areas. This legislation is intended for large, utility-scale renewable projects at 50 MW of nameplate capacity or higher that realistically cannot be accommodated within our defined boundaries.

For this reason, the League has sought and advocated for the exemption of cities and villages from this bill package. The intention of this legislation is not directed at our membership. Dialogue from the bill sponsors, the MPSC, and industry stakeholders fail to acknowledge specific circumstances or scenarios where the actions of a city or village have presented a hindrance to the deployment of renewable energy. Moreover, cities and villages collectively only make up approximately 5% of the state land area, this is less when you consider undeveloped areas. Only 16 cities are greater than 30 square miles and 438 jurisdictions on our membership are less than five square miles.

Our request for exemption in no way means we resist Michigan's clean energy transition. A core pillar of the League's Community Wealth Building Principles is sustainability. We have worked directly with EGLE and other external partners through Michigan Green Communities and Catalyst Communities. Our member communities have fantastic examples of municipally led, highly regarded, renewable energy projects across our membership to illustrate that we are at the forefront of this transition.

We look forward to continuing our work with the bill sponsors and stakeholders towards a path that incorporates local government as a partner as opposed to a barrier and legislation that takes the role of cities and villages into a more appropriate and intentional context.

Sincerely,

Herasanna Richards  
Legislative Associate  
Michigan Municipal League

**We love where you live.**

