

Molly Wingrove

From: Larry Gray <lgray@commercetwp.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House bill 4526, 4527, 4528

I am Larry Gray, Township Supervisor for the Charter Township of Commerce, and I would like to submit a card in opposition to HB 4526, 4527, 4528 on behalf of myself and Charter Township of Commerce and I would not like to testify before the committee.

Regards,



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Molly Wingrove

From: Tom <tom@corrigan.tech>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 4:31 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4066

I am writing in support of HB 4066. Please enter my comments into the record of the Michigan House Energy, communications, and Technology Committee meeting for Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Tom Corrigan
City Council
City of Mackinac Island

Molly Wingrove

From: Karen Broach <karendbbss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); Rep. Jerry Neyer (District 92); Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel mining legislation

UGENT ACTION NEEDED--GRAVEL MINE UPDATES

Local preemption legislation for the siting and regulation of sand and gravel mines was introduced Thursday and is before a House Committee on Tuesday, May 9. The bills propose to eliminate all existing local authority and also silence communities and residents over these high-impact operations.

House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528, sponsored by Reps. Pat Outman (R-Belvidere Twp.), Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit) and Angela Witwer (D-Delta Chtr. Twp.), would usurp all local authority and allow a sand and gravel mine, crushing facility or storage facility to operate anywhere in a community—regardless of zoning—undermining the ability of local officials to balance the needs of all property owners in the borders of their jurisdiction. Under the three-bill package, no local regulations could apply to operation issues that are inherently local in nature, including hours of operation, truck routes, noise, dust control and fencing. If your community currently has aggregate mining operations permitted, this legislation would also allow the operator to move from your locally approved permit to one approved by the state—leaving your township with no authority on an operation already in existence in your community.

Local zoning is intended to protect local residents, and as a locally elected official, you understand the importance of building strong communities, protecting public health and safety and improving quality of life. You must balance the responsibility of being good stewards of public resources, the needs of your residents and the businesses that support your local economy.

These bills do not balance the needs of the community but rather puts profit over people, ignoring local governments, residents and property owners by:

Prohibiting municipalities and affected residents or businesses from requesting any permit modifications, silencing the community from issues impacting their daily lives and livelihood.

Permitting EGLE to grant modifications requested by the mine operator only.

Allowing 70-foot-high aggregate stockpiles just 50 feet from property lines—an obvious impact on neighboring property owners.

Holding neighboring properties hostage for years by allowing mines to bank sites for up to a decade.

Artificially limiting required financial assurances at levels that do not provide for proper protections for amounts needed for land reclamation.

Codifying operation hours for activities such as truck loading, blasting and crushing to begin by at least at 6 a.m. six days per week—and allows for hours beyond that time for state or county contracts.

Limiting local government and resident input only through public comment periods.

Prescribing noise levels required for worker safety hearing protection only and weighted over eight hours—with no considerations for the impact of noise to nearby homes, businesses, schools and property.

Vacating previous judicial and administration opinions related to all mining permit applications—including those previously submitted to a local unit of government.
Removing the right of referendum by impacted residents.

I am asking you to oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life. Please stand with local communities by opposing House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Sincerely

Karen Broach

Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: mercorliz@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); Rep. Jerry Neyer (District 92); Molly Wingrove
Subject: Fwd: GRAVEL MINE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED URGENT ACTION NEEDED

DEAR HOUSE COMMITTEEI URGE YOU NOT TO SUPPORT H.B. 4526,26,27. AS THEY ALLOW A GRAVEL PIT TO BE PUT JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE. A GRAVEL PIT MAKE MONEY FOR THE OWNER AND DECREASES THE PROPERTY AND MAKES LIFE MISERABLE FOR HUNDREDS OF OTHERS IN THE AREA....AT PRESENT THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH MINIMALLY OR UNPOPULATED LAND AVAILABLE. YOU DONOT WANT ONE IN YOUR BACK YARD AND NEITHER DOES ANY ONE ELES EXCEPT THE MAN OR WOMAN WHO MAKES THE MONEY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME LARRY ULMER..4695 CORDES ROAD, DELTON MI.

tyronecarter@house.mi.gov

tullioliberati@house.mi.gov

MikeMueller@house.mi.gov

cynthianeeley@house.mi.gov

helenascott@house.mi.gov

stephanieyoung@house.mi.gov

KristianGrant@house.mi.gov

MikeMcFall@house.mi.gov

WillSnyder@house.mi.gov

JimmieWilson@house.mi.gov

GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov

PaulineWendzel@house.mi.gov

JosephAragona@house.mi.gov

MatthewBierlein@house.mi.gov

JerryNeyer@house.mi.gov

mwingrove@house.mi.gov (Molly Wingrove – Committee Clerk)

-----Original Message-----

From: Greater Wall Lake Association <greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com>

To: GWLA Admin <greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, May 7, 2023 12:57 pm

Subject: GRAVEL MINE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED URGENT ACTION NEEDED

CALL TO ACTION

Dear Lake Neighbors,

We learned that on Thursday, three gravel mining bills were introduced into the Regulatory Reform Committee of the Michigan State House of Representatives. House Bills [4526](#), [4527](#) and [4528](#) if passed, are bad news to property owners and local townships and very favorable to gravel companies.

A few highlights from the bills are as follows:

- They specifically remove sand and gravel from the current MZEA provisions, so there is no requirement to prove need, value, or Very Serious Consequences. No mechanism to appeal a decision by EGLE.
- The bill specifically supersedes all local zoning and master plan provisions. Local units of government are totally un-involved.
- They would allow mining up to 50 ft of a permitted property line.
- They will allow for sound levels at the property line of 75 dbA on an 8-hour time weighted average. That means they could make a huge racket for half a day if they were relatively quiet the rest of the day. And spot checks of dbA levels will do no good as you would have to continuously monitor the entire day to get the average. This requires some fancy equipment to do that, so it is basically unenforceable.
- Allows for periodic air blasts of 133 dbA. Ouch!
- If a person files a complaint with EGLE and EGLE investigates and dismisses the complaint and if that person files another complaint that is ultimately dismissed, the person who files the complaint will pay all EGLE's cost to investigate.
- Permits are valid for the life of the mine but may be rescinded if mine activity does not start within 10 years. So, they could just build an access road after nine years and that would meet the requirement for mining activity. This is just the miners wanting to lock up a reserve of permitted sites before more stringent controls are imposed in the future.
- No public hearing is required. EGLE may schedule one at its discretion and only must provide 5 days' notice.
- Reclamation security is required, but only \$3000 - \$8000 per acre (not enough), with no provision for annual escalation for inflation.

What can you do? If this concerns you, please take a few minutes to draft a personal email stating your concerns to the following Regulatory Reform Committee members listed at the bottom of this email (a link is included). MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION is urging everyone to [contact your state representative today](#) to oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life. Ask them to stand with Michigan communities and oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

You can also sign an online petition [here](#) against the legislation that eliminates your township's ability to protect the interests and safety of their residents, students, businesses and property owners.

This is time sensitive – the Regulatory Reform Committee conducts a public hearing in Lansing on Tuesday, 5/9 at 10:30AM and it is likely that this bill could be presented to the House for a vote as early as 5/16.

The link to the committee's web page: <https://www.house.mi.gov/Committee/HREGU>.

The Regulatory Reform Committee email addresses are as follows:

tyronecarter@house.mi.gov

tullioliberati@house.mi.gov

MikeMueller@house.mi.gov
cynthianeeley@house.mi.gov
helenascott@house.mi.gov
stephanieyoung@house.mi.gov
KristianGrant@house.mi.gov
MikeMcFall@house.mi.gov
WillSnyder@house.mi.gov
JimmieWilson@house.mi.gov
GrahamFiller@house.mi.gov
PaulineWendzel@house.mi.gov
JosephAragona@house.mi.gov
MatthewBierlein@house.mi.gov
JerryNeyer@house.mi.gov
mwingrove@house.mi.gov (Molly Wingrove – Committee Clerk)

Please do your part to help keep local government controls in our community and retain your voice in the local community.

Your GWLA Board

Molly Wingrove

From: Paul Warrick <pgwarrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:10 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Cc: Rep. Dave Prestin (District 108); Joanne Galloway
Subject: HB 4066

Please enter into the record of the Michigan House Energy, Communications, and Technology Committee my support of HB 4066 which will protect the Michigan High Speed Internet Office against future executive disbandment. This office will serve a critical role in bringing high-speed internet to rural areas of Michigan.

Thank you.
Paul Warrick
2 Forest Lodge Rd
Kincheloe MI 49788

Mailing:
PO Box 5113
Kincheloe MI 49788-5113

Molly Wingrove

From: M. Resha Wyman <mreshawyman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:12 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Fwd: Sand and gravel mining in Leelanau County

Please include this testimony in today's committee meeting minutes.
Thank you for your work on this issue.
M. Resha Wyman

Begin forwarded message:

From: "M. Resha Wyman" <mreshawyman@gmail.com>
Date: May 8, 2023 at 4:18:41 PM CDT
To: BetsyCoffia@house.mi.gov
Subject: Sand and gravel mining in Leelanau County

Dear Rep. Coffia,

I grew up with adults who loved every inch of Leelanau County, and to this day those of us who remain regard that area as the most beautiful in the world and relish time spent there.

I have lived for the past 40 yrs in also-beautiful-but-not-home western Wisconsin, and I have seen the devastation of sand mining here. Please do not let the power to protect the beloved beauty of Leelanau be taken from the people who live there by the 3 bills being considered in your House of Representatives. (A company in southern Louisiana is actually making sand from recycled glass bottles! Doesn't that make more sense than destroying a beautiful and beyond-monetary-value land in Michigan?)

Thank you.

Marion Resha Wyman
4250 GreenLeaf Dr.
Dodgeville, WI 53533
Sent from my iPad

Molly Wingrove

From: David Williams <williamsda1945@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:21 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526, 4527, 4528

Dear Representative Wingrove,

Please accept my position against HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528, which would remove and deny local control of sand & gravel mining in Michigan. Please work to keep local control strong and not to allow industry to dictate the rules for the extraction of our natural resources.

Yours truly,

David Williams
Leelanau County

Sent from my iPad

Molly Wingrove

From: Jack Ball <jfbjr213@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: No more Gravel!!

Keep Michigan Pure!! No more sand and gravel from Leelanau County. Say NO, and let's enjoy Pure Michigan!

Jack Ball
847-651-4846
Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: "J Travioli" <jim@rustictimbers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:37 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel Pit Mining

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. Please protect our neighborhoods from this unrestricted mining.

Thank you!
Jim Travioli
1805 E Kasson Rd.
Cedar, MI 49621

Molly Wingrove

From: Liz Masters <lizze.toddmasters@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:42 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Entry of opposition HB 4526-4528

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life. I ask you, our lawmaker, to stand with Michigan communities and oppose House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning
SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House
Republicans

Respectfully,

Liz Masters, Wales Supervisor
810.543.3058

Molly Wingrove

From: Jessica Maynard <jmaynard143@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:55 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Oppose HB 4426-4528

Dear Molly Winegrove,

Please protect local authority over local issues! The newly introduced legislation usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Wales residents, businesses and property owners.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life. I ask you, to stand with Michigan communities and oppose House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully,
Jessica Maynard
Wales Township, Michigan

Molly Wingrove

From: Jim Bardenhagen <jbardenhagen4212@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:55 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526,4527,4528

Dear Rep Wingrove,

I would request that you not support House Bills 4526,4527,4528. They would adversely affect Leelanau County and other counties. We have a lot of sand and gravel in Leelanau County and unlimited mining of these products without any local control would seriously hurt the economy , natural character and tourism in our County.

Jim Bardenhagen
Bardenhagen Farms
231-218-3199
jbardenhagen4212@gmail.com

Molly Wingrove

From: Marvin Grahn <marvnchris@netscape.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:54 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel Mining comment for official minutes

Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee,

Please vote NO on House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 regarding unrestricted mining in the State of Michigan.

They nullify local control of zoning within townships, without awareness of local issues nor residential use.

One size fits all is just wrong for the state.

Individual rights are greatly compromised, including the peaceful use of our home, losing the security of our home's value and livability, and degrading personal health from the constant noise, gravel dust, heavy machinery, vibration, and gravel semi trucks impact on traffic, and rural roads.

A manufacturing gravel pit 500 ft. with aggregate piles 50 ft. from a home is unconscionable. We live one and a half miles away from existing gravel operations, the noise and dust are invasive at this distance!

Please leave local zoning to townships who are aware of local issues, allow citizen input, and keep tabs on the decades of gravel currently zoned for extraction.

Currently our township (Kasson) has 80-100 years of gravel zoned for extraction. We located our home to take current zoning into account for quieter rural living. How can citizens confidently buy a home when the land immediately around it, their investment, and peace of mind, may be destroyed at any time?

Marvin Grahn
11436 S Tower Rd
Maple City, MI 49664

Molly Wingrove

From: Ben O'Neal <onealb@mylakers.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel/mining pits

Good morning,

I would like to express my opinion that decisions concerning gravel pit and mining operations should be left to the local level of governments, such as county and township levels. Average citizens are often unable to make the financial and time commitment to travel to Lansing to voice their dissent or support for these types of operations, but are able to attend more local meetings. As these decisions can adversely affect people's investments and quality of life, local residents who are affected by these types of business should be able to easily have their voices heard. These are just regular people, trying to live their lives without undue environmental hazards, heavy road traffic, construction noise, and potential water table issues. If possible, I would like this email to be shared during discussion on this matter.

Thank you for reading this, Ben O'Neal

4744 S. Lime Lake Rd.
Cedar, MI 49621

Molly Wingrove

From: A Konczal <akonczal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 8:23 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel pit mining legislation

Dear Representative Wingrove,

My State Representative Betsy Coffia suggested I contact you with our Gravel Pit legislation concerns since you are on the Committee handling this matter.

We would like to urge your no vote on the Gravel Pit legislation before the House. Currently the township controls the zoning of gravel extraction and I think it should remain in the hands of local people rather than allowing outside interests determining how this resource is managed. We the local land owners know where it is acceptable to zone for gravel extraction and would like to continue managing this resource in a manner using best environmental practices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gerald and Ann Konczal
11494 S Tower Road
Maple City, MI 49664

Molly Wingrove

From: Steve Gilbreath <sgilbreath7481@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:07 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

I oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Local townships should be allowed to regulate local sand and gravel mining.

Molly Wingrove

From: E. Beaudoin <beaudoin.dvm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:17 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Molly Wingrove,

I am deeply concerned about the impact these bills would have on our local community.

Tom Nelson of the Leelanau Nature Conservancy says it best for me.

"Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. Mining could be permitted as close as 400 ft. from any home, business or school. And, under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), **the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.**"

I urge you to please consider the effect these bills would have on our counties and state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Elizabeth Beaudoin
12062 S. Elk Run
Traverse City, MI 49684
Elmwood township
Leelanau county

Molly Wingrove

From: Ted Nelson <ted_nelson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Molly,

I am forwarding to your attention my email to Rep. Matt Hall stating my opposition to HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Please include my testimony of opposition in the committee meeting minutes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ted Nelson

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ted Nelson <ted_nelson@hotmail.com>
Date: May 9, 2023 at 9:24:22 AM EDT
To: MattHall@house.mi.gov
Subject: Opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Greetings Representative Hall,

I am writing to express my opposition to the subject House Bills (4526, 4527, 4428) for two reasons: First, truly I recognize that we need roads and infrastructure maintenance, but at the same time there are already very large sand and gravel operations throughout Michigan.

And second, these bills ultimately take decision making away from the local level and passes that authority to the State bureaucracy of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy. I believe - and I know you do too - that our Founding Fathers opted for more local control rather than State control.

For those two reasons I am opposed to subject House Bills. I hope you will support Michigan's lands and local community rights.

Regards,

Ted Nelson

Molly Wingrove

From: Tim Dowd <spring523@juno.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526,4527&4528

I am writing in opposition to the bills that I have written in the subject line. Please do not move these out of committee. Thank you. Tim Dowd Cedar, Mi

Sent from my iPhone



**SIERRA
CLUB**

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Sierra Club Opposition for House Bills 4526-4528

May 9th, 2023

To: Chairman Carter and Members of the Committee

RE: Sierra Club Opposition to House Bills 4526-4528

On behalf of our 150,000 members and supporters in Michigan, the Sierra Club expresses our opposition to House Bills 4526-4528 as currently written.

In their current form, these bills are inadequate to protect Michigan's communities and natural resources. As it stands, these bills are not responsive to concerns around groundwater contamination or testing, soil preservation or remediation, and local control when it comes to community character issues. With the slew of current threats to our air, water, and land, we need to do more to protect our quality of life.

While this package would give our Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) new permitting authority over aggregate mining, it fails to provide an effective and truly robust regulatory framework for oversight and review of these mines. We are not against this idea, however, for us to support EGLE permitting authority, there need to be substantial changes.

This bill goes too far when it comes to local pre-emption. While pre-emption makes sense when it comes to environmental regulations, issues that define the character of local communities, however, should remain in control of locals. Things like hours of operation and haul routes should be defined locally, as communities know best where their residents live and are most at risk of truck pollution and what times industrial facilities should run to minimize noise concerns.

This bill package creates a number of processes that do not serve the best interests of protecting natural resources and public health, and instead builds layers of protections for the extractive industry. For starters, we need to see language that will bring all mines into this permitting program within five years. All mines should be subject to a statewide oversight program, regardless of previous local permits and mine size. This will help fund the program via the surveillance fee as well as create an actual oversight program for mining. Also, in the bill, there is no specific timeline for regular inspections of these mines. We would recommend a quarterly inspection regimen to ensure that these mines have sufficient oversight.

Gravel deposits occur in glacial outwash areas. These areas are also where our wetlands, streams, and lakes are located, and are where 90% of the surface water for these water bodies comes from. Moreover, most of our groundwater is located here and is a source of drinking water for many of our citizens. From lowering of local ground-water and surface-water levels from mining operations and mine dewatering, changes in turbidity levels in groundwater due to blasting and quarry operations, to

interruption of ground-water conduit flow paths by rock removal, to temperature change (thermal impacts) in springs and surface-water streams, aggregate mining can have negative effects on surrounding water systems. The environmental impact assessment needs to include a hydrogeological study on top of the other listed requirements. This study would do more to describe how the groundwater flows and what potential constituent pollutants are found in the water.

Furthermore, more testing needs to be done. We need groundwater testing before, during, and after site work, on the site, and around it in the "affected" area. While we appreciate this language, we need groundwater testing and groundwater withdrawal monitoring in the bill to actually assure protection and appropriate reclamation from an environmental and public welfare standpoint. EGLE does not independently verify the hydrogeological impacts of a proposed withdrawal when determining whether the permit standards are met.

The practice of aggregate mining comes with serious public health, water, and environmental risks. Aggregate mining requires the removal of virtually all-natural vegetation, topsoil, and subsoil, which in turn completely degrades, fragments, and destabilizes the natural environment. Once we disturb the land, the land can never be reclaimed fully to its previous state. And right now, mines are not being properly reclaimed and leave permanent and irreplaceable damage to the land and soil. Therefore, there needs to be a requirement and specific standard set within the reclamation process for soil health protection within the mining area. Also, to promote less land destruction, this bill or adjacent legislation should require the maximization of recycled materials or incentives to increase the utilization of recycled aggregates.

Beyond the physical changes to the landscape, the daily barrage of noise, dust, and exhaust produced by hundreds of dump trucks hauling aggregate can have serious effects on the health of people living nearby. Pollution from particulate matter (PM), such as silica dust and diesel exhaust particulate matter (DPM), both of which are dangerous carcinogenic airborne pollutants are prevalent in aggregate mining, and the lack of enforcement around Michigan NREPA Part 55, which deals with air pollution control, is concerning to us.

For us to be able to properly reclaim the land, we must make sure we have the proper financial assurance requirement. As written in the legislation, the financial assurance of \$3,000-\$8,000 is too low and does not cover the actual costs, which by estimates is realistically around \$8,000 per acre as the floor, not the ceiling. Reclamation and vegetation practices need to be taking place concurrently to better protect our environment and to prevent fugitive dust from leaving the mining site and need to be based on sound science which includes native plants, diverse seeding, and pollinator-friendly plant species.

We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge what this current bill and bills from previous sessions have been based on. The claims of supply chain problems seem to be based on two reports that were discredited by both the State Transportation Commission auditor and the Michigan Office of the Auditor General. The auditors questioned the truthfulness of the reports after information was revealed via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that the aggregate industry unduly influenced the direction of the studies. Putting our environment and communities at risk based on a false study put together by the industry for their own personal benefit is dangerous and corrupt. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Michigan was one of the top five producers of sand and gravel used in construction in 2016. On top of being one of the top producers, Michigan is also one of the top exporters of aggregates. Data from

Flexport shows that Michigan exported \$7.8 million worth of aggregate in 2020, making Michigan the nation's second-largest exporter of aggregates.

Lastly, and most importantly, the timeliness of this bill. We have a small window of opportunity to tackle the climate crisis – time is up. Instead of moving on the environmental priorities, voters demanded, today's hearing show's House leadership is prioritizing environmentally destructive bills that the environmental community and many other stakeholders have collectively opposed over the past few legislative sessions. This package is so bad that it's been defeated with bipartisan support multiple times under previous Republican control. This would be disappointing enough on its own, but now Leadership is moving forward with this bill at a rate that has not allowed us sufficient opportunity to provide feedback. Because of that, what is presented to you today are just some of the concerns we have with this bill package.

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter will be scoring any votes pertaining to this bill on our legislative scorecard.

Sincerely,



Tim Minotas
Deputy Legislative and Political Director
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

Nancy Laskowski
4151 Ball Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
nancyjplfb@gmail.com
989-325-5339

May 9, 2023

Michigan Committee on Regulatory Reform

Rep. Tyrone Carter – Chair

Rep. Tulio Liberati – Majority Vice Chair

Rep. Mike Mueller – Minority Vice Chair

Rep. Cynthia Neely

Rep. Helena Scott

Rep. Stephanie A Young

Rep Kristian Grant

Rep. Mike McFall

Rep. Will Snyder

Rep. Jimmie Wilson

Rep Graham Filler

Rep. Pauline Wendzel

Rep. Joseph Aragona

Rep. Matt Bierlein

Rep Jerry Neyer

C/O Clerk, Molly Wingrove

mwingrove@house.mi.gov

Honorable Michigan State Representatives of the Regulatory Reform Committee:

I come to you today to ask that you please do not support House Bills 4526-4528. I am serving or have served previously on several planning commissions in Tuscola County and have witnessed personally what happens when the legislature starts regulating what only the local officials can possibly have a good understanding of.

Michigan has a long history of local zoning control that makes for happy communities. There are rules in place in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and Michigan Zoning Enabling Acts that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the communities. Those acts guide and regulate our local planning commissions. The only time local control has been overridden is when the existing

Planning and Zoning Enabling acts were found to violate the state and or federal constitutions. The bills considered would completely override the authority granted to our local officials.

I have personal experience with issuing, along with a local planning commission, a special use permit for sand mining within my community. Taking away local control would have eliminated the public hearing that is a part of the process of issuing a special land use permit. In our case that hearing brought up several safety concerns that we were able to address. The project was allowed to proceed but in a way that protects the residents of the community and their investment in their community.

What kind of issues came up? A stop sign was added on a blind corner that the trucks hauling sand would travel on. Reasonable times of operation were established. A haul route out to a county main road was established so that the community's investment in road repairs was not a lesson in futility. After all, isn't this what the changes are being considered for. To get Michigan's roads under better repair. Taking away local control and basing site approval only on EGLE standards would have not considered any of the local concerns in my community. The company wanted to use a route to the state and county roads through a high concentration residential neighborhood, a road that was just improved, and over a bridge with no weight ratings. The community's safety and financial investment in their local roads would have been entirely ignored.

In addition to bypassing local authority granted in the Michigan Planning and Zoning Enabling Acts, this legislation being considered would violate several court decisions that protect both local residents and those seeking land use approvals. Those cases created a very high standard for a person to bring suit for harms from a specific land use. A person must be uniquely harmed, which on a large project such as some mining operations are, is a standard that is nearly impossible to meet. That is why our locals must be allowed to consider their master plans, the local conditions surrounding a proposed mining operation, and so much more when permitting.

The courts, on the other hand, have provided some protection for both our communities and for those choosing to use the land for a particular use. Those standards say that the use must be needed in the immediate area or region and not already provided in an adjacent jurisdiction such as a township or county or larger region. The courts have stated communities may not exclude a use entirely but that the scope of use is up to the local jurisdiction. Maybe only one section of a township is suitable for sand mining. The locals know their community better than someone sitting in an office in a remote community. The courts have also stated that it is not the obligation of the local planning commission or any government to make a specific land use financially viable. The proposed legislation treads all over these court rulings and local planning commissions. It is your obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the State of Michigan. No legislature should be in the business of harming one group on behalf of another.

Please vote NO. Please do not support House Bills 4526-4528.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy Laskowski

Molly Wingrove

From: Michele Hulsey <vmhulsey@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:42 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Sand and gravel mining

I am an Leelanau County resident and opposed to any measures that would remove all control of sand and gravel mining from local governments and place it in the hands of the state (EGLE). Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone
Michele Hulsey
10836 E Fort Rd
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
502 417 6954

Molly Wingrove

From: Stephanie Mills <stephaniem@centurytel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: In Re; House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

As a citizen of Kasson Township, I'm writing to oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. Abrogation of local control over extractive activities can be a very bad idea. Our township has struggled over the years to craft a reasonable protocol for gravel mining, and it works.

Please share with the legislators that an industry power grab of residents land stewardship and governance is plain wrong.

Thank you.

Stephanie Mills

Molly Wingrove

From: jaboelstler <jaboelstler@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Usurping of local control of sand & gravel mining

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community and state.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Boelstler

Molly Wingrove

From: Rob Conley <robconley.2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Molly Wingrove

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community and state.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Conley

Molly Wingrove

From: Paul Breyer <pfbreyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Opposition to restrict local planning

I am writing to make you aware of Solon Township's citizens' strong opposition to proposed House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528. Solon Township citizens opposes the series of bills because they aim to restrict – or for the most part eliminate – local zoning and planning control over gravel mining, while also containing a weak set of mining standards that would be implemented statewide to the harm of residents neighboring a gravel mine.

Paul Breyer
11300 S Hill Rd, Cedar, MI 49621

Molly Wingrove

From: Karl Cooper <karlcooper76@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Molly Wingrove

Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 were introduced as a three-bill package. These bills threaten our local communities' rights over having the last word on whether to allow new sand and gravel surface mines. **This threat is now more urgent with the bills possibly going to vote this week.** These dangerous bills now have political momentum.

Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. Mining could be permitted as close as 400 ft. from any home, business or school. And, under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), **the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.**



We understand that roads and infrastructure are important. At the same time, there are already very large sand and gravel surface mining operations in Leelanau and elsewhere in Northern Michigan. Again I ask, do we need more?

Given the irrevocable impacts of these destructive industrial activities, **we believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.** For more information, click here: [Aggregate Preemption's Back, Tell A Friend!](#)

House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 pose a serious threat to Leelanau county.

Molly Wingrove

From: Jacquelyn Kendall <jackiecay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:06 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Sand and Gravel Mining

Dear Representative:
I hope you still have time to consider this.

Last Thursday, Michigan House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 were introduced as a three-bill package. These bills threaten our local communities' rights over having the last word on whether to allow new sand and gravel surface mines.

Not only do HBs 4526, 4527, and 4528 remove local communities from the decision-making process, new, large surface mining operations threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. Mining could be permitted as close as 400 ft. from any home, business or school. And, under the guise of shifting the permitting from local governments, who know their communities best, to the State of Michigan's Department of Great Lakes, Environment and Energy (EGLE), **the bills do not give EGLE the authority to deny an application for a new surface mining operation or even ensure a public hearing.**

We understand that roads and infrastructure are important. At the same time, there are already very large sand and gravel surface mining operations in Leelanau and elsewhere in Northern Michigan.

Given the irrevocable impacts of these destructive industrial activities, **we believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.**

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Kendall 8330 S Dunns Farm Road Maple City, MI

Sent from my iPad

Molly Wingrove

From: JoAnna Pepe <pepejoanna@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 12:38 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Oppositio to HB 4526, HB4527 and HB 4528

Dear Ms Wingrove:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4526, HB4527 and HB 4528, bills which would remove all local control of sand and gravel mining. Interestingly, just this past Saturday I drove past the new Team Elmers sand and gravel mining operation on Baatz Rd. The sight was appalling—large hills of sand and gravel, and a new visual wasteland in an area that had been beautiful. Since Leelanau County is loaded with sand and gravel, the proposed legislation would have dire consequences for the quality of life in our county, with impacts on the environment, property values, tourist attraction, and the quality of life for everyone and anyone in the vicinity of the mining operations.

As a locally elected official, you understand the importance of building strong communities, protecting public health and safety and improving quality of life. You must balance the responsibility of being good stewards of public resources, the needs of your residents and the businesses that support your local economy.

Please oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JoAnna Pepe

9132 Shorter Lake Road

Traverse City, MI 49684



Embracing Wholeness

JoAnna Pepe, MA, LLP, PC

Counseling, Psyche & Soul Work

9132 Shorter Lake Road | Traverse City, MI 49684

231.392.3578 | pepejoanna@gmail.com

"It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work,
and when we no longer know which way to go we have begun our real journey."

~ Wendell Berry

Molly Wingrove

From: Jim Logan <jloganfour@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel Mines in Leelanau County

For the record, we oppose taking the final decision making for new gravel mining operations (and similar business operations with environmental and neighborhood impact) away from local governments in Leelanau County. This approach is counter to the reason we have local authorities in place.

We would like our position included in the committee meeting minutes.

Jim Logan
Monica Logan
7335 N Gills Pier Road
Northport, MI 49670

Molly Wingrove

From: nancygetts <nancygetts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:56 AM
To: Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); Rep. Jerry Neyer (District 92); Molly Wingrove
Subject: Mining regulations

We need local government to ensure the mining companies are being good neighbors. They already are a loud, road wrecking, nuisance, please don't let them get worse.

Nancy Getts
Duplain township, Clinton county

Sent from my Galaxy

Molly Wingrove

From: Geradine Simkins <geradines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2)
Cc: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Opposed to House bills House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528

To Rep Tullio Liberati, Majority Vice Chair:

Good morning. I would like to respectfully state my strong opposition to **House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528.**

I am a landowner, tax-payer and voter in Leelanau County, in Northern Michigan. Leelanau is a unique environment in our state that draws thousands of tourists each year because of its natural beauty and recreational opportunities. As you know it's one of the brightest natural gems in Michigan. Local people work hard to maintain the beauty and heritage here.

I oppose House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 because I believe the residents and taxpayers in this region should have some power to regulate aggregate mining in our beautiful area.

Please VOTE NO on House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528!

Thank you kindly.

Geradine Simkins
275 E. Cemetery Rd.
Maple City, MI 49664
geradines@gmail.com

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PEACE FOR ALL. LIFE FOR ALL. LOVE FOR ALL.

Geradine Simkins, APRN, CNM, MSN [she/her/Ms]

* Owner. [Birthways Consulting, LLC](#), expert in maternal & child healthcare, leadership, public health initiatives & advocacy

* Practitioner, national leader & trainer. 44 years experience in profession of midwifery and public health nursing, WisdomFromMidwives.com

* Author. *The Midwife Matrix, Reclaiming Our Bodies, Our Births, Our Lives* (2020)

* Author & editor. *Into These Hands, Wisdom From Midwives* (2011)

Molly Wingrove

From: Theresa and/or Mike Kidd <kidd5115@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:21 AM
To: Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); Rep. Jerry Neyer (District 92); Molly Wingrove
Subject: Pit Mining House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528

Good Morning,

I'm a resident of Clinton County and am aware that House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 and being considered in your committee for discussion today, May 9. This may be late in getting to you, but I want to pass along my concern that should these bills go to the House floor and eventually pass into law, the law will not be good for the residents of Michigan, yet alone the people of our county.

This issue should be of concern to everyone in our state no matter what party affiliation. These bills would allow mining companies the right to control location of mines and hours of operation. Apparently, these bills will exclude the concerns of local residents and governments. If pit mining companies are allowed the freedom to choose their locations and hours of operation, local control will be out of the picture and there will be little, if anything, a local government can do about pit mining being too close to neighborhoods and noises from late hours of operation will go on with little Company concern about the noise pollution in the surrounding areas.

These bills have not been well-thought-out as they relate to the well-being of the people throughout Michigan. Please consider my comments as you go about dealing with these bills.

Thank you!

Theresa Kidd
Bath MI
Clinton County MI

Molly Wingrove

From: Judith Walsh <judithwalsh00@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526-4528

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community and state.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Walsh

Molly Wingrove

From: Ronald Gresham <rongresham71@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 10:32 AM
To: Molly Wingrove

testimony of opposition to HB 4526-4528

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community and state.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Wingrove

From: margo@margoburian.net <m.burian@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:20 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: NO (HB 4526, 4527, 4528)

Dear Ms Wingrove-

I wanted reach out and ask that your committee members vote NO on the aggregate bills (HB 4526, 4527, 4528) that are being lobbied for by the Aggregate Mining Industry. These bills are disingenuous at best and crafted without care for the greater good of the public and the environment as they essentially strip away all local government oversight. As a resident of southern Leelanau County, I've seen first hand how the impacts of the mines that operate here have affected the environment, wildlife, and residents' homes and property values. Our home is within 4 miles of Elmer's main pit off M72 and Reith Riley's operation is about 2 miles beyond. I see and hear the effects of these large scale operations first hand. The devastation to the environment and quality of life for residents, human and wildlife, is beyond significant and most likely irreparable. While these two companies proclaim to be good stewards of the environment, all one has to do is to drive by their sites to see how this is not an accurate portrayal. Berms with planted pines that are dying/dead because they were never watered, entire stands of trees leveled to the road without even leaving a "visual buffer zone". This hardly speaks of care or good stewardship.

The way these bills are written leaves no room for citizens or municipalities to have any sort of discussion or recourse as to the location or size of proposed mines and are very clearly written to only benefit the companies who profit from aggregate extraction and not taking into account the best interest of community.

I firmly believe that we need to preserve/protect our natural resources and our quality of life for future generations, while also preserving our local governments' ability to make decisions that are in the best interests of their citizens. I hope you agree with me.

Please enter my comments in the public record as well as forwarding to your Committee members.

Respectfully,
Margo Burian
9566 S Fritz Rd.
Maple City MI 49664

Molly Wingrove

From: C Ggg <c22g2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528

Dear Ms Wingrove,

As a resident of Kasson Township in Leelanau County and a homeowner within one mile of the Elmer's Gravel pits, I strongly oppose removing the permitting responsibility from the local governments. Our family deals with the daily disturbance of noise and dust pollution. The massive trucks pose a safety risk to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The bills would eliminate the ability of local government to balance the needs, interest and safety of their residents and property owners. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

I ask that you oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.
Please recognize and support the right for citizens to have a voice in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Christa Gray
Masson Township, Mi

Molly Wingrove

From: John Petkus <john.petkus@centerforchangemichigan.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:10 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: In Support of House Bill 4066

Good Afternoon,

I am writing today in support of HB 4066, please enter my comments into the record of the Michigan House Energy, Communications and Technology Committee meeting for Wednesday May 10, 2023.

I am strongly in support of this measure as I live in Northern Michigan, and many of the needs of my community hinge on having high speed internet. Northern Michigan has been long neglected in this regard, and fully funding and staffing the Michigan High Speed Internet Office has given us a ray of hope that we will see improvements to this infrastructure in the near future.

I greatly appreciate all that the committee is doing to make these changes a reality to Northern Michigan.

Thank you,

John Petkus,
Rudyard, Michigan 49780

Molly Wingrove

From: Jonathan Kunz <jonkunz99@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Hello Ms. Wingrove,

I live in Leelanau County and am concerned about House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 impact on our community. I understand there are state-wide needs for gravel and other resources to support infrastructure improvements. However, these bills go too far in limiting local land use control and measures to reduce the environmental impact of gravel mining.

I hope that you will oppose these bills and include my testimony in the meeting minutes.

Thank you,

Jon Kunz
9131 S. Lake Shore Drive
Cedar, MI

Molly Wingrove

From: Jason McKinney <poohbear72579@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:31 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to ask that you give your utmost attention to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 which seek to remove the process of local approval on sand and gravel mines, providing even more power to the corporations who are stripping our lands for profit, leaving wastelands in their wake (for the taxpayers to handle).

I've been a resident of Leelanau County since 2011, and even in that short amount of time I've seen more and more tracts of land be completely deforested, striped bare of all soil, turned into a massive crater-like void. These thieves plant trees at the boundary of their mines to hide the eyesore from the tourists, but the legacy of their destruction lasts for generations.

Meanwhile, their massive heavy trucks gather in convoys to-and-fro to clog our local roads as they haul our county away from us load by load, leaving massive potholes and belching black fumes. They champion local jobs and industry while funneling money through lobbyists and political machinations to ensure that these resources are converted to money that lines their pockets while taxpayers and the environment are left holding the bill to pay the real costs of these profits.

Now they want even easier access to our county so that they can usurp local opposition to their so-called business. Michigan is not a natural resources bank for them to withdraw from at will. Michigan is our home, our lives, our legacy. I humbly ask that you give considerable thought to these proposed bills. Consider the harm that can come to our communities when power is removed from local communities and instead handed over to a state-run organization that can easily be stripped of its power and which has no mandate to invite local opinion in its decisions.

Thank you for your time and service,
Jason McKinney

Molly Wingrove

From: Scott Werly <werly.scott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528

Enough is enough, please reconsider damaging our beautiful and important Leelanau landscape with yet, another gravel/sand pit! Do you not value wildlife, tourism and the people that you supposedly serve? I am disgusted every time I pass one of the two gravel/sand pits currently in the county and I live here...what do you think the tourist think when they see these? We value our county and to take away our rights to a public hearing on future gravel sites is deplorable! Stop the destruction now while you have a chance. Please include my testimony in the committee meeting minutes. Shame on all of those who drafted these Bills, we will remember you at election time!

Sincerely,
Michelle Mirasola

Molly Wingrove

From: Arthur Beaudoin <beaudoinart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: mining

Good afternoon,

We strongly oppose the House Bill 4526 4527 4528. The last thing we need is more mining in areas that are crucial for plant and animal diversity, besides the harm to the ground water. Michigan has already enough dangerous potential environmental nightmares in our state: fracking, line 5, forever chemicals, and of course climate change. Lets focus on tourism, preserving trees (that aren't dying from diseases) and agriculture. You have my permission to read this at your meeting.

Thank you, Dr Arthur Beaudoin

Molly Wingrove

From: Ann Lyon <lyonaf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526, 4627, 4528

My husband and I have lived in Michigan for over 50 years. We raised our children here, owned a clinical practice and now take grandchildren from both Michigan and Seattle to revel in the beauty of our state. We are strongly opposed to these three House Bills that would jeopardize local control over decisions near and dear to every Michigander.

Dr Keith Lyon & Mrs Ann Forster Lyon

Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: DANIEL SILVASI <dsilvasi@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:06 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Aggregate mining bills

To Whom It May Concern,

As a lifelong resident of Michigan with children and grandchildren in mind please reject any further mining in Michigan. We have a beautiful state that should not be destroyed with short term greedy goals. Please help preserve and protect our environment and wildlife. I would expect nothing less of our elected officials.

Sincerely,
Linda Silvasi

Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: Jen <allamjen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526-4528

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony.

The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Local units are thoroughly trained to avoid discriminatory or exclusionary planning and zoning, and carefully plan for likelihood of necessary infrastructure improvements, with trends of commerce, availability of materials, and realized potentials for the community and state.

Oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Standing together to oppose:

Michigan Municipal League Michigan Association of Counties Michigan Association of Planning SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Michigan House Democrats Michigan House Republicans

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Allam

Molly Wingrove

From: Jim and Tina Wright <jimtina@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel Mining Bills

Dear Ms. Wingrove and House Regulatory Reform Committee:

I am writing in opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. It seems unfair that my community and others would not be allowed to make the final decision regarding new sand and gravel surface mines.

I understand the need for such mining, within limits. However, in Leelanau County, we would also consider the effects on tourism, agriculture, drinking water, scenery, and road safety. I see no reason to empower a state agency to overrule the wishes of local communities on this issue.

Thank you for listening to these views.

Jim Wright

11750 S. Golden Valley Road

Empire, MI 49630

Molly Wingrove

From: William Witler <wrwitler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

I am writing to you to go on record opposing the passage of the above aggregate mining bills. I, along with all of my neighbors in Glen Arbor, MI strongly object the overturn of our state's foundational "HOME RULE" by allowing mining companies to write their own ticket without prior local hearings or approvals. The proposed regulatory review is after the mining takes place and encourages the mining companies to ask for forgiveness rather than permission. This will be devastating to our environment, water quality, ecology, and property values in our region. We already have a mining district in Kasson Township, Leelanau County that is locally approved and managed. Please record this opposition. Thank you. William Witler Family. Owners of two homes in Glen Arbor Township, Michigan.

Property Owner
9181 S. Coleman Rd
Maple City MI 49664

Anthony G. Forton
Diplomatic Security Paramedic
231-499-5049

Registered Voter
Kasson Township
Leelanau County

The Honorable Regulatory Reform Committee Members
Anderson House Office Building
4th Floor, North Tower 124
N. Capitol Ave. P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: **House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528**

My name is Anthony Forton; I reside in Kasson Township, Leelanau County. I am writing regarding **House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.**

Over the past few years, we have watched the mining bills introduced yearly to circumvent local government and zoning to mine aggregates.

House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 are designed to circumvent all local authority and allow a sand and gravel mine, crushing facility, or storage facility to **operate *anywhere* in a community**—regardless of zoning—undermining the ability of local officials to balance the needs of all property owners in the borders of their jurisdiction. Under the three-bill package, **no local regulations could apply** to operation issues that are inherently local in nature, including hours of operation, truck routes, noise, dust control, groundwater contaminants, and inherent health hazards. Although Kasson Township currently has aggregate mining operations permitted, this legislation would also allow the operator to move from their locally approved permit to one approved by the state—leaving Kasson Township with no authority over an existing operation in your community.

Local zoning is intended to balance the community's progress and needs. Local officials understand the importance of building strong communities, protecting public health and safety, and improving quality of life. **Local leaders can best balance the responsibility of being good stewards of public resources, the needs of residents, and the businesses that support the local economy.** I support access to aggregate materials necessary to fix Michigan's roads and other conditions. However, the current process allows local governments to balance those needs with their community. This balance is imperative for the local voices to be heard.

This far-reaching legislation also jeopardizes existing relationships between mine operators and local governments. Kasson Township has created a working connection with local mining operations which is being honored by all parties. In addition, Kasson township has prioritized the health and safety of its citizens and neighboring landowners.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your hard work and all you do for us here in the great state of Michigan.

Please respond to me about your position on these multiple House Bills.

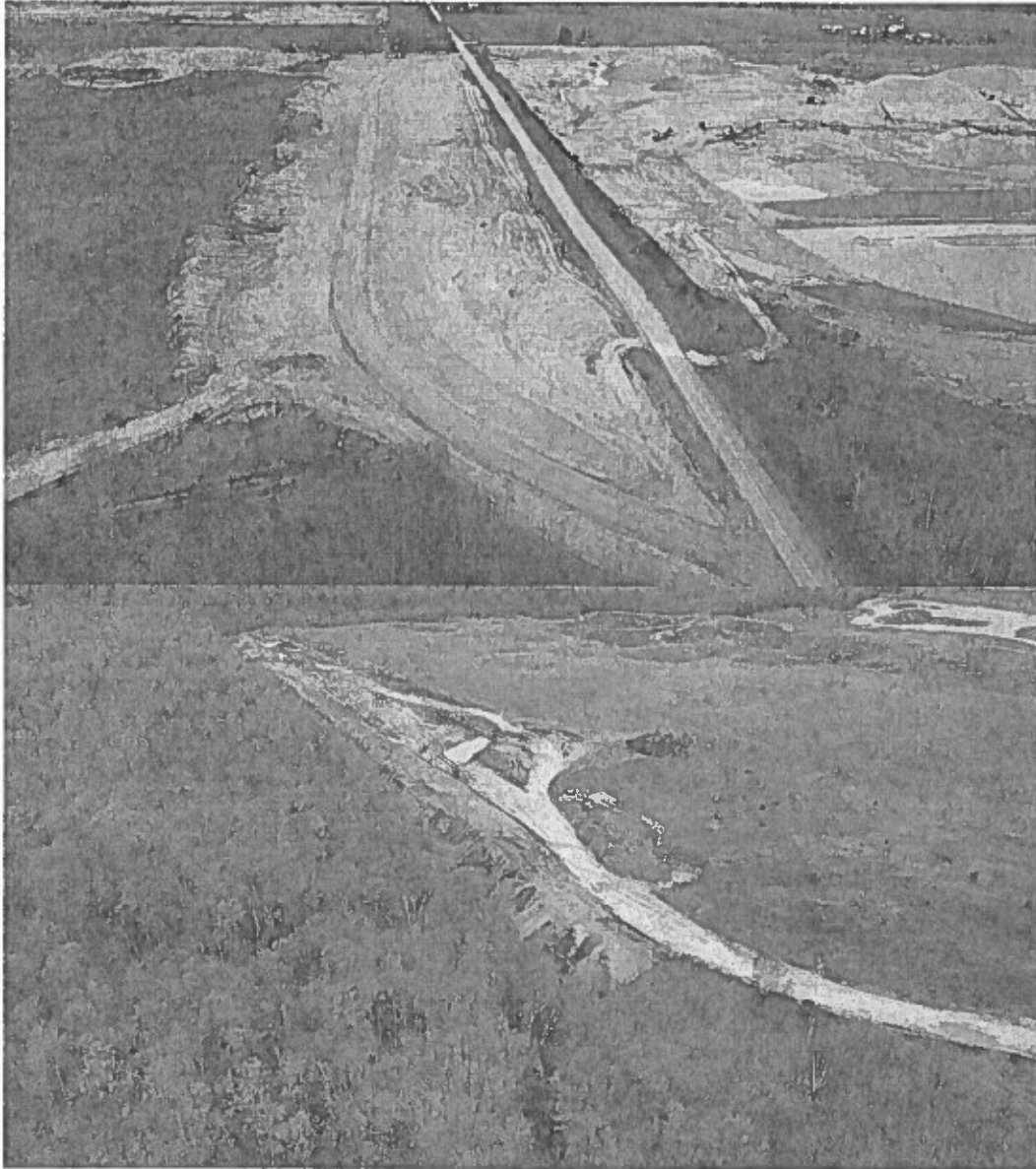
Sincerely,

Anthony G. Forton

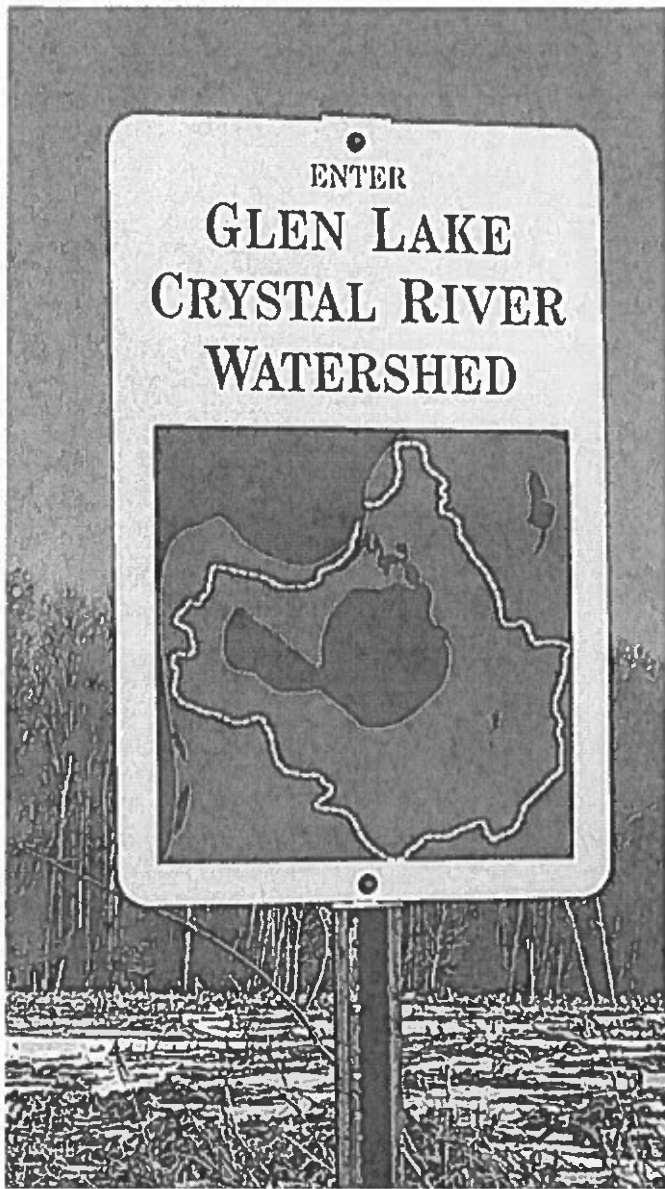
Please let me know your position on these multiple House Bills.

Sincerely,

Anthony G. Forton
Maple City MI
C- 231-499-5049







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Molly Wingrove

From: Norm Stephens <norm_stephens@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526-4528

Dear Honorable Representative,

Please enter my name and title as opposing testimony. The newly introduced legislation that usurps all local control over sand and gravel mining and completely eliminates our township's ability to protect the interests and safety of Michigan residents, businesses and property owners.

Please oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life. Our recently formed group **OUR HOME, OUR VOICE** is a grassroots coalition of county and township officials and community organizers advocating to maintain local control of land use by promoting reasonable regulation in our communities. The regulations in these bills are not "reasonable".

This effort to remove local control of zoning is unreasonable and resorts to sledge hammer regulations to keep citizens from participating in the democratic process.

Norm Stephens, Resident
91 E. Deckerville RD
Caro, Michigan
Almer Twp
Tuscola County

Molly Wingrove

From: JandC McGovern <jandcmcgovern@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 3:07 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House bills 4526 4527 and 4528

I urge you to vote against the above bills. Local communities should have input on mining decisions being made that affect them.

Jim McGovern

Jim McGovern's iPhone