



Corktown Business Association  
PO Box 32310  
Detroit, MI 48232

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May 15, 2023

Re: HB 4454

Dear Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

On behalf of the Corktown Business Association, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for HB 4454, which will help make it possible for us to create a Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) in the Corktown neighborhood of Detroit.

Corktown is Detroit's oldest neighborhood, and it has a long and proud history as one of the city's most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. Over the years, it has been home to a wide range of businesses, from local bars, restaurants, and retail to technology startups and creative industries. However, like many other neighborhoods in Detroit, Corktown has faced a range of challenges in recent years, including economic instability, blight, and crime.

HB 4454 will provide us with the tools we need to address these challenges and boost Corktown's economy. By creating a BIZ, we will be able to fund a wide range of initiatives aimed at improving the vibrancy, safety, and beauty of our community. These initiatives include everything from street cleaning and graffiti removal to marketing and promotional campaigns, as well as public safety initiatives and support for local business development.

The benefits of creating a BIZ in Corktown will be significant and far-reaching. By working together, we can create a safer, more vibrant community that attracts more visitors, creates more jobs, and helps to revitalize the local economy. With the current state BIZ legislation, it will be very difficult for us to successfully create a BIZ.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Michigan State Senate Committee on Economic and Community Development to pass HB 4454, which will significantly help us to create a BIZ in Corktown. We are committed to working with local businesses, community groups, and city agencies to ensure that this initiative is successful, and we believe that it has the potential to serve as a model for other neighborhoods seeking to revitalize and improve their local economies.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Roberts  
President, Corktown Business Association

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