



OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID COULTER

May 10, 2021

Representative Steve Marino
Chairman, Committee on Commerce & Tourism
Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Marino,

On behalf of the people of Oakland County, thank you for the opportunity to share several concerns regarding the provisions of House Bills 4729 – 4732. As currently drafted, this legislation would result in significant revenue reductions for county governments throughout Michigan, including Oakland County.

These revenue reductions would effectively shift the statutory mandated costs of maintaining the records of the Register of Deeds Office onto the taxpayers of Oakland County. The Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds estimates the potential impact of this unfunded mandate to be approximately \$500,000 - \$700,000 annually.

The taxpayers of Oakland County should not be asked to subsidize the sale of property records for the gain of private operators, as these bills propose. In addition, these bills weaken the chain of custody of property records with Register of Deeds offices, increasing the likelihood that consumers will be provided misleading or outdated information.

I ask that you consider withholding further consideration on this legislation until these concerns can be addressed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Coulter".

Dave Coulter
Oakland County Executive