



Economic Development

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Representative Ed Clemente, Chair of the House Committee on New Economy and Quality of Life
Members of the Michigan House and Senate

RE: Committee Testimony Regarding Senate Bills 437, 1345-1349 and 1442-1443

Dear Michigan House and Senate Members:

The following is a written version of my testimony to the House Committee on New Economy and Quality of Life regarding Senate Bills 437, 1345-1349 and 1442-1443, which was conducted on September 23, 2010.

“Good morning & thank you for the Committee’s time today. My name is Eric Kemmer from the City of Kalamazoo. I have partial responsibility for management of the City’s Brownfield Redevelopment Initiative and am here in support of modifications to Part 201 as it relates to Brownfield Redevelopment.

Since 1997 our program has leveraged over \$170 million in private investment, retaining or creation over 1,350 jobs for a community of approximately 75,000 residents. In partnership with the public and private sector, the success of our program has been an integral piece of our community’s ability to maintain many of our strengths while revitalizing downtown Kalamazoo even in these difficult economic times.

In order to support and strengthen programs such as ours it is important to have an efficient regulatory process so that we can continue keep potential projects moving forward. BRAs/Local Units of Government are typically just a conduit for the redevelopment of properties by the private sector.

Extending the list of limited due care obligations to voluntarily acquisitions by BRAs, as is currently the case for involuntary acquisitions, provides additional flexibility to wisely use limited resources for redevelopment purposes. And as another example, having the ability to work with the DNRE to renegotiate terms of Brownfield loans also makes sense in this constantly changing economic environment. Thank you.”

Sincerely,

Eric S. Kemmer
Redevelopment Coordinator

