

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee:

I first wanted to thank you for allowing Mr. Joe DiSanto, Economic Development Director and myself to testify before your committee on the proposed legislation, HB 5856. Here at the Township we are very passionate about our DDA and the successes we have experienced. Our successes resulted in Wayne County and the State of Michigan benefiting from our hard work. As a result of our DDA, we have throughout its inception received close to \$100 million in investment from private companies locating to our Township, staying in our Township, and growing within our Township.

We also have bonded for several Capital projects for sewer, water, and various infrastructure projects that helped the County and State. Keep in mind if these projects would not have occurred, would not have resulted in Wayne County having more funds for infrastructure, or economic development, as the County has a huge deficit they cannot manage. Also, because of our foresight, in the recent heavy storms that occurred in SE Michigan, we were one of the only Downriver communities that did not experience flood damage as a result of our DDA infrastructure expenditures.

General Motors invested in the Township, the first capital investment by the Company since 1983, and because of the cooperation of Township officials, our DDA, and MEDC, they made a subsequent reinvestment to expand for new battery manufacturing for the new electric Cadillac. DDA funds were used to help acquire land for a new substation for DTE's capital expenditure for additional power capacity for GM. MTU, a subsidiary of Detroit Diesel, invested in our Township and this location is the only one in the United States of the five globally.

These businesses located here after their Corporate staff researched the area for recreation, schools, access to major modes of transportation (air, rail, highway, etc.) and our commitment to keeping and maintaining our public safety. Before these investments in our Township were made. Company officials met with our DDA and asked, if we could provide them adequate police, fire, and EMT service. They also worked with us to allow these personnel to train inside their facilities so they would be prepared for any situation.

Our DDA, and our Township finances are discussed at public hearings, located on our Township's website and each taxing juror is notified whenever a major proposal or expenditure is explored. Our Auditor, Plante & Moran, publishes all DDA expenditures and our budget for all to see.

We are very glad that in the proposed legislation, it defines public use as fire and police as we have expended DDA funds for our public safety use to ensure we uphold our promise to new and existing investors and companies, we will provide them with the best public safety service. We even have been recognized for this service and this recognition resulted in a reduction of insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. 90% of our dispatched safety service calls are within our DDA district.

Wayne County has been auditing our DDA for 3 years and has retained Attorney David Fink (Oakland County) to pursue litigation against the Township because Wayne County claims our DDA expenditures are illegal for public safety under the DDA Act of 1975. Our current County Commissioner Raymond Basham was a legislator when the DDA Act was proposed and passed. He clearly stated the legislature in 1995, the bill was proposed with an intended vague use of funds to allow local municipalities to decide the best use of these funds. **With that said, we would like to see under the proposed legislation, a clause that any disputes between local municipalities and the sitting County government, be resolved by arbitration through the State Treasury office, and neither party can pursue litigation, unless arbitration fails to resolve the issue.**

Wayne County claims not to have funds, but is currently spending tax dollars to defend 3 Wayne County officials that were recently indicted, and then to retain outside counsel for DDA litigation. With the County spending so much of the tax dollars on litigation and defense, it is no question why they want our DDA funds. (<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/taxpayers-to-foot-bill-in-wayne-county-jail-cases/28232028>)

In closing, I would like to invite each of your committee to take a day and visit our Township and see personally, the success of our Township as a result of the DDA Act. I am sure if I were to present my case to the voters of Wayne County,

who would you trust to expend your tax dollars, Wayne County who spent funds on a jail that was never finished or used, spent tax dollars on litigation and defense, or Brownstown Township who spent DDA funds to bond for a police and jail facility that has been in use by the Township and neighboring communities for 2 decades, and the debt is almost paid.

Sincerely,

Andrew Linko

Supervisor

Charter Township of Brownstown

21313 Telegraph Road

Brownstown, MI 48183-1399

Office: (734) 675-0071

Fax: (734) 675-2807

Email: andrew.linko@brownstown-mi.org