MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

2133 University Park Drive, Suite 200
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517.349.9420 Fax: 517.349.5823
www.michiganpolicechiefs.org

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April 24, 2013

Representative Kurt Heise
Criminal Justice Committee Chairman
N-699 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: HB 4083

Dear Representative Heise:

My name is Robert Stevenson, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP). I am writing on behalf of our Association to express the MACP's opposition to HB 4083.

There are several reasons that we are opposed. First and foremost is that almost every police agency in the state has lost funding over the last ten years. Any additional fees that are going to be added to fines should be earmarked back to local Police Departments. Before we start adding on additional fees to benefit private entities we need to first address the dire financial situation that many of our Police Departments find themselves in today.

Another reason that we are opposed is that Crime Stoppers rewards need to be funneled through Crime Stoppers for a person to be eligible for a reward. Meaning, that if a reward is posted and a person wants to give a tip and calls the local police department instead of Crime Stoppers they are ineligible to receive the reward. If we are going to start giving money away that is generated by the fines assessed on convicted felons and misdemeanors then local Police Departments should have some input into how Crime Stoppers administers and distributes our funds. At the very least a person who calls in a tip to a local police department should be eligible to collect any reward.

The third reason that we are opposed to HB 4083 is that Police Departments are not and should never be funding mechanisms to benefit private programs. There are many other excellent private programs that would also like to benefit from this type of arrangement. Where will it all stop?

Please understand that I think Crime Stoppers is a fine program. When I was Chief of the Livonia Police Department I donated several thousand dollars each year for their support. This practice has continued after my departure and many other Police Departments also make similar donations. This type of support along with fundraisers and private donations are the method we believe should continue to fund Crime Stoppers.

Please feel free to contact me should your need any additional information.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert Stevenson
Retired Chief/MACP Executive Director

RS:jkf

Michigan District Judges Association

PRESIDENT
Hon. Ronald Lowe
Plymouth

PRESIDENT- ELECT
Hon. Brian Oakley
Romulus

VICE-PRESIDENT
Hon. Richard Hammer
Garden City

SECRETARY
Hon. Katherine Hansen
Detroit

TREASURER
Hon. Thomas Boyd
Mason

PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS
Hon. Theresa Brennan
Brighton

Hon. William Baillargeon
Allegan

February 25, 2013

Representative Kurt Heise
N 0699 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: HB 4083

Dear Representative Heise,

On February 15, 2013, the Michigan District Judges Association Board reviewed HB 4083 which has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

We strongly oppose this bill because it would require an assessment to be imposed on all defendants in criminal cases to be used for a non-court function. We agree with you that Silent Observers Crimestoppers is a great organization but court assessments should be used only for court purposes.

Please feel free to contact me at rlowe@35thdistrictcourt.org or at (734) 781-0107 or Judge Bill Kelly at kellyw@ci.kentwood.mi.us or at (616) 554-0717 if you wish to discuss this bill further.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald W. Lowe
President
Michigan District Judges Association

DetroitRegionalChamber

April 9, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Heise
State Representative
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Heise:

The Detroit Regional Chamber supports House Bill 4083, recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R-Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund Crime Stopper and Silent Observer organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

In the Detroit area, Crime Stoppers started as a program of the Detroit Regional Chamber as a part of the Alliance for a Safer Greater Detroit. The business community understands the need to improve public safety in order to improve the business climate and views Crime Stoppers as an excellent return-on-investment for both public and private funds.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online, or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest.

Currently Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations are funded primarily through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement organizations. HB 4083 would allow Crime Stoppers to supplement our current sources of funding with a relatively small amount that would continue providing services to their local areas.

HB 4083 provides for assessment and collection of $5.00 per misdemeanor and $10.00 per felony violation. Further, it allows the county Board of Commissioners to designate an eligible organization as the recipient of the collected assessment. The court may retain up to 10% of the funds collected.

Assessments received by a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer organization under this act shall be used only for the following purposes for the benefit of crime victims:

- Pay rewards to persons who provide information regarding criminal activity
- Operate telephone and other communications systems to receive information from informants
- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a Crime Stoppers organization

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan and we urge you to support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Lindsay Case
Director of Government Relations

Headquarters
One Woodward Avenue
Suite 1900
P.O. Box 33840
Detroit, Michigan 48232-0840
313.964.4000

Lansing
101 S. Washington Sq.
Suite 820
Lansing, Michigan 48933
517.372.2278

www.detroitchamber.com

CRIME STOPPERS
1•800•SPEAK UP
ANONYMOUS CASH REWARDS

Crime Stoppers of Michigan

The Honorable Kurt Heise
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

April 9, 2013

Dear Representative Heise:

On behalf of Crime Stoppers of Michigan, I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

Currently, Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations are funded primarily through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement organizations. We, along with our partners throughout the state, provide critical information to law enforcement and the tips we supply consistently lead to arrests and convictions of criminals. HB 4083 would allow us to supplement our current sources of funding with a relatively small amount that would allow us to continue providing critical service in southeast Michigan. It is also likely the funding will allow the service to be provided in areas that do not currently have a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer in their community.

HB 4083 provides for assessment and collection of $5.00 per misdemeanor and $10.00 per felony violation. Further, it allows the county Board of Commissioners to designate an eligible organization as the recipient of the collected assessment. The court may retain up to 10% of the funds collected.

Assessments received by a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer organization under this act shall be used only for the following purposes for the benefit of crime victims:

- To pay rewards to persons who provide information regarding criminal activity to that Crime Stoppers organization.
- To operate telephone and other communications systems to receive information from informants regarding criminal activity.
- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a Crime Stoppers organization for the benefit of crime victims.

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan. **Please support House Bill 4083.**

Regards,

John Broad
President

10900 Harper Ave Detroit, MI 48213 • (313) 922-5000 • www.1800speakup.org

April 12, 2013

Representative Kurt Heise
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Heise,

On behalf of the Kent County Silent Observer Program I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund our organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those with information about serious crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers and any other identifying information are not recorded. A secret ID number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are given if the tip information leads to the arrest of someone who has violated the law.

Silent Observer is funded through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement. We provide critical information to law enforcement – the tips we supply remove dangerous criminals from our streets and help victims of crime see justice. HB 4083 would allow us to supplement our current sources of funding with a relatively small amount which would assist us in maintaining our current operations. It is becoming increasingly hard to raise the money needed to sustain and grow our program. The demands are great as we are asked to do more to assist police and our schools in keeping our community safe but the funds are not coming in to offset the extra costs.

This legislation is crucial to the continued operation of Silent Observer and Crime Stoppers Programs around Michigan. Without it I believe that many Silent Observer/Crime Stoppers Programs in the State will close their doors due to lack of funding. This legislation will also provide those counties without a Program the money to start one thereby creating safer communities all over Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Lt. Ron Gates
Chairman Kent County Silent Observer Program
Kent County Sheriff Department

P.O. BOX 230321 (GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49523
PHONE: 616-454-9110 (WWW.SILENTOBSERVER.ORG

DETROIT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

32500 Telegraph Road, Suite #207
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025
Phone: 248.647.0400
Fax: 248.647.0407

April 16, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Heise
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Heise:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

Currently Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations are funded primarily through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement organizations such as ours. These groups provide critical information to law enforcement and the tips they supply consistently lead to arrests and convictions of criminals. HB 4083 would allow them to supplement their current sources of funding with a relatively small amount that would allow them to continue providing service in our area. It is also likely the funding will allow the service to be provided in areas that do not currently have a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer in their community.

HB 4083 provides for assessment and collection of $5.00 per misdemeanor and $10.00 per felony violation. Further, it allows the county Board of Commissioners to designate an eligible organization as the recipient of the collected assessment. The court may retain up to 10% of the funds collected.

Assessments received by a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer organization under this act shall be used only for the following purposes for the benefit of crime victims:

- To pay rewards to persons who provide information regarding criminal activity to that Crime Stoppers organization.
- To operate telephone and other communications systems to receive information from informants regarding criminal activity.

- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a Crime Stoppers organization for the benefit of crime victims.

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Steven Phillips
President/CEO
Detroit Technologies, Inc.

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

Robert J. Bezotte
Sheriff

Michael J. Murphy
Undersheriff

LIVINGSTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

150 S. HIGHLANDER WAY • HOWELL, MICHIGAN 48843
TELEPHONE (517) 546-2440 • FAX (517) 552-2542

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Bill Rogers
State Representative, District 42
N-891 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Rogers:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund our organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

Currently Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations are funded primarily through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement organizations. Our groups provide critical information to law enforcement – the tips we supply often lead to arrests and convictions of criminals. HB 4083 would allow us to supplement our current sources of funding with a relatively small amount that would allow us to continue providing service in our area. It is also likely the funding will allow the service to be provided in areas that do not currently have a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer in their community.
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Assessments received by a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer organization under this act shall be used only for the following purposes for the benefit of crime victims:

- To pay rewards to persons who provide information regarding criminal activity to that crime stoppers organization.
- To operate telephone and other communications systems to receive information from informants regarding criminal activity.
- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a crime stoppers organization for the benefit of crime victims.

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Robert J. Bezotte
Sheriff

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Heise
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Heise:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

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- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a Crime Stoppers organization for the benefit of crime victims.

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Steven K. Gaut

Federal-Mogul Corporation • World Headquarters • 26555 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, Michigan 48033
Tel (248) 354-7826 • Fax (248) 354-7779 • steven.gaut@federalmogul.com

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Michael Callton
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Callton:

On behalf of Silent Observer of Barry County I urge you to support House Bill 4083, which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund our organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

Currently Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations are funded primarily through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement organizations. Our groups provide critical information to law enforcement – the tips we supply often lead to arrests and convictions of criminals. HB 4083 would allow us to supplement our current sources of funding with a relatively small amount that would allow us to continue providing service in our area. It is also likely the funding will allow the service to be provided in areas that do not currently have a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer in their community.

HB 4083 provides for assessment and collection of $5.00 per misdemeanor and $10.00 per felony violation. Further, it allows the county Board of Commissioners to designate an eligible organization as the recipient of the collected assessment. The court may retain up to 10% of the funds collected.

Assessments received by a crime stoppers or silent observer organization under this act shall be used only for the following purposes for the benefit of crime victims:

- To pay rewards to persons who provide information regarding criminal activity to that crime stoppers organization.
- To operate telephone and other communications systems to receive information from informants regarding criminal activity.
- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a crime stoppers organization for the benefit of crime victims.

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Best Regards,

Julie Nakfoor-Pratt, Barry County Prosecutor

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

NORTHVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
215 W. MAIN ST.
NORTHVILLE, MI 48167
Administration (248) 349-5100 – Fax (248) 349-2397
Gary M. Goss, Chief of Police

April 9, 2013

The Honorable Representative Kurt Heise
Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee
Anderson House Office Bldg.
N-699 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: House Bill 4083

Dear Representative Heise:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers was recently credited with helping to resolve the fatal Hit and Run accident involving the young man Joshua Green in the City of Northville. It was the result of the publicity that put pressure on the H&R motorist that lead to his turning himself in and bringing closure to the family.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

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House bill 4083 continued

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This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.
Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Gary M. Goss
Police Chief

Robert J. Bezotte
Sheriff

Michael J. Murphy
Undersheriff

LIVINGSTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

150 S. HIGHLANDER WAY • HOWELL, MICHIGAN 48843
TELEPHONE (517) 546-2440 • FAX (517) 552-2542

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Cindy Denby
State Representative, District 47
N-896 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Denby:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund our organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

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This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Robert J. Bezotte
Sheriff

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Vincent Gregory
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Gregory:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

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This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Steven K. Gaut

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

Federal-Mogul Corporation • World Headquarters • 26555 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, Michigan 48033
Tel (248) 354-7826 • Fax (248) 354-7779 • steven.gaut@federalmogul.com

Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Rudy Hobbs
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Hobbs:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

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This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Steven K. Gaut

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

Federal-Mogul Corporation • World Headquarters • 26555 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, Michigan 48033
Tel (248) 354-7826 • Fax (248) 354-7779 • steven.gaut@federalmogul.com

Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Irwin
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Irwin:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations allow those who have information about a crime to anonymously contact a tip line by phone, online or text message. Names, phone numbers or any other identifying information is not recorded. A tip number is provided for the tipster to follow-up and cash rewards are provided for certain crimes in the event of an arrest. Tips are turned over several times a day to various law enforcement agencies depending on jurisdiction.

Currently Crime Stoppers and Silent Observer organizations are funded primarily through private donations and with some support from local law enforcement organizations such as ours. These groups provide critical information to law enforcement and the tips they supply consistently lead to arrests and convictions of criminals. HB 4083 would allow them to supplement their current sources of funding with a relatively small amount that would allow them to continue providing service in our area. It is also likely the funding will allow the service to be provided in areas that do not currently have a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer in their community.

HB 4083 provides for assessment and collection of $5.00 per misdemeanor and $10.00 per felony violation. Further, it allows the county Board of Commissioners to designate an eligible organization as the recipient of the collected assessment. The court may retain up to 10% of the funds collected.
Assessments received by a Crime Stoppers or Silent Observer organization under this act shall be used only for the following purposes for the benefit of crime victims:

- To pay rewards to persons who provide information regarding criminal activity to that Crime Stoppers organization.
- To operate telephone and other communications systems to receive information from informants regarding criminal activity.
- Other purposes directly related to the operation of the entity as a Crime Stoppers organization for the benefit of crime victims.

This legislation is critical to the continued operation of these organizations around Michigan.

Please support House Bill 4083.

Regards,

Steven K. Gaut

cc: Rep. Kurt Heise, Chairman, Criminal Justice Committee

Federal-Mogul Corporation • World Headquarters • 26555 Northwestern Highway • Southfield, Michigan 48033
Tel (248) 354-7826 • Fax (248) 354-7779 • steven.gaut@federalmogul.com

Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Mark Jansen
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Jansen:

On behalf of the CRIME STOPPERS OF MICHIGAN I urge you to support House Bill 4083 which was recently introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R – Constantine). This legislation would create a process that would help fund organizations across Michigan by applying a modest assessment to misdemeanors and felonies.

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Steven K. Gaut
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April 5, 2013

The Honorable Rick Outman
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Outman:

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Steven K. Gaut
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April 5, 2013

The Honorable Randy Richardville
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Richardville:

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Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Rob VerHeulen
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative VerHeulen:

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Steven K. Gaut
Vice President, Corporate Communications & Government Relations

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Rebekah Warren
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Warren:

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Steven K. Gaut
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April 5, 2013

The Honorable Adam Zemke
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Zemke:

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