

Testimony of Kenneth Cole
Before the
Michigan Senate Economic Development Committee

(February 12th, 2014 / 1:30 a.m. / 110 Farnum Office Building / Lansing, MI 48933)

Chairman Kowall ... Distinguished colleagues on the Senate Economic Development Committee ...
Good morning.

For the record, my name is Kenneth Cole. I am a principal with Governmental Consultant Services Inc., more commonly called GCSI, and am here representing the great City of Detroit. I am joined this afternoon by Mr. Brian Kott of the Lewis and Munday Law Firm. He is representing the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

On behalf of the Honorable Mike Duggan, Mayor of the City of Detroit, and the Detroit City Council, I first want to sincerely thank Chairman Kowall for hearing testimony on House Bills 5131 and 5132, and I appeal to the committee to pass the measures expeditiously.

The goal of this legislation is simple: To promote consistency in Michigan law by having the terms of political appointees to the governing boards of either a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority or an Economic Development Corporation expire at the same time as that of the elected official who named them to said panels. Doing so will increase accountability on these economic development boards.

You will recall that the Legislature passed similar legislation, signed into law by Governor Snyder, in the 96th session of the Michigan Legislature. Specifically, Representative John Walsh's House Bill 5463 of 2012 – now **Public Act 396 of 2012** – amended the Downtown Development Authority Act to treat political appointees to that type of body the same as what is being proposed in House Bills 5131 and 5132.

I should also note that Senate Bills 739 and 740, both sponsored by the Honorable Senator Virgil Smith, seek to accomplish the same within the Local Development Financing Authority and Corridor Improvement Acts. The City of Detroit supports these measures, too.

Again, thank you for considering this legislation. We are happy to entertain questions.