MTA

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

January 26, 2010

Intergovernmental & Regional Affairs Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Madame Chair Donigan and Committee Members:

The Michigan Townships Association urges your support of House Bill 5573, introduced by Representative Jase Bolger. We would further like to thank Representative Bolger for introducing the bill, and you, for your consideration of this important matter.

House Bill 5573 would amend Public Act 359 of 1941. Under current law, a village, city or township having a population of more than 5,000 may provide by ordinance for the controlling and eradicating of noxious weeds in subdivided land. If the owner, agent or occupant of the property has failed following a 10 day notice to destroy the weeds, then an agent authorized by the governing body of the local unit of government may enter upon the property and destroy, by cutting, the noxious weeds. Expenses incurred by the local unit of government can then be charged back to the owner of the property and can be placed as a lien on the property if not paid by the owner. However, under current law, this authority is limited to those townships of greater than 5,000 in population, which has limited many townships throughout the state from taking action to protect neighborhoods from unsightly weeds and diminished property values.

House Bill 5573 would simply eliminate the population threshold currently contained in state statute for townships. MTA has been contacted directly from some smaller townships and has heard of several others that want and need the authority to control noxious weeds within their communities. Frankly, while we are not sure why this restriction was contained in the original noxious weed legislation, it makes no sense whatsoever in this day and age to restrict smaller townships from doing what all other jurisdictions can already do to help control this problem.

We believe that House Bill 5573 is an important piece of legislation for townships and strongly urge your support. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Frazier
Legislative Liaison

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