

Legan Rose

From: Erika Schick <mtngirl17@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 9:50 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Erika
...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40: 31

Legan Rose

From: Brian Isham <bfisham@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 8:49 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Brian Isham

Legan Rose

From: Sandra Miller <scmglenarbor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 7:58 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I own property in Kasson Township in Leelanau County and strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. Kasson is already covered by large, noisy and dirty gravel extraction operations. Additional, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water, to say nothing of "quiet enjoyment". These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

I strongly urge these bills to be rejected!

Sincerely,

Sandra Miller

Sent from my iPad

Legan Rose

From: Mary Bozell <marybozell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 7:54 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely, Mary Bozell

Legan Rose

From: Rick Delaney <delaney99@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 7:51 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose, I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. Sincerely, Rick

Rick A. Delaney

Legan Rose

From: David Tepoorten <david.tepoorten@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 10:12 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose, I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. Sincerely,

David Tepoorten

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Legan Rose

From: William Lipner <wlipner@lipnerpartners.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 9:17 PM
To: Legan Rose
Cc: dtlltd@mac.com
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

We strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like ours from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Bill and Debbie Lipner

1102/1122 N. Manitou Trail

Leland, MI

Legan Rose

From: stankryder@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 9:05 PM
To: Legan Rose
Cc: stankryder@gmail.com; joykryder@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

Joy and I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. These bills undermine the cornerstone "home rule" that serves as the foundation of Michigan's legislative and governance process. These bills remove local communities like ours from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. Neighboring Kasson Township already has an approved and well managed mining district. Land speculators have already purchased adjacent land and clear cut the landscape anticipating these bills. This has already negatively impacted the ecology. The alleged oversight of EGLE is insufficient!

Our lake, Glen Lake is a national treasure, and it would be threatened from these bills. We strongly oppose them.

Sincerely,
Joy and Stan Kryder
Owners of two homes in Empire Township
4470 & 4472 Olive Street,
Maple City, MI. 49664

Legan Rose

From: Scott Werly <werly.scott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 8:58 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Michelle Mirasola

Legan Rose

From: William Barksdale <wbarksdale313@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 8:42 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad

Legan Rose

From: Melissa Duke <melduke16@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 7:16 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose, I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. Sincerely,

Melissa Duke

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Kind regards,

Melissa Duke

Legan Rose

From: William Dennler <elaphebill@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 7:00 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
William Dennler

Sent from my iPhone

Legan Rose

From: Eugene Weng <gweng@edbrands.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 6:38 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Legan Rose

From: kristi holmstrom <kristiholmstrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:54 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Kristi Holmstrom
10090 N Ranger
Northport, MI
49670

Legan Rose

From: Janice Fleming <djintc49684@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:47 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

JaniceDear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Janice E. Fleming

Sent from my iPad

Legan Rose

From: George Felton <feltongearge@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:38 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

George Felton
11425 S Rolling Meadow Dr
Maple City MI 49664

Legan Rose

From: JohnMichael Musselman <jmmusselman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:32 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

My name is John-Michael Musselman. I am a resident of Leelanau County.

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Please choose for the betterment of our ecology, and the future wellbeing of the families who call this land home.

Sincerely,
John-Michael

Legan Rose

From: Diane Hamilton <diham0675@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:25 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Diane Hamilton

Legan Rose

From: Tom DeVault <tomdevault49@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Tom DeVault

Legan Rose

From: Alison Heins <aheins17@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 12:36 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Please oppose sand and gravel mining bills

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4526, HB4527 and HB 4528, bills which would remove all local control of sand and gravel mining. Interestingly, I recently drove past the new Team Elmers sand and gravel mining operation on Baatz Rd. The sight was appalling—large hills of sand and gravel, and a new visual wasteland in an area that had been beautiful. Since Leelanau County is loaded with sand and gravel, the proposed legislation would have dire consequences for the quality of life in our county, with impacts on the environment, property values, tourist attraction, and the quality of life for everyone and anyone in the vicinity of the mining operations.

Please oppose this legislative attack that preempts all local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that can have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alison S. Heins, 12022 S. Elk Run, Traverse City, MI (Leelanau County)

Legan Rose

From: diana conciergeupnorth.com <diana@conciergeupnorth.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 12:04 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

We strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Diana and Louis Aug
Leelanau Travel
(Concierge UpNorth)
231 499 6629
www.leelanautravel.net

Legan Rose

From: Elizabeth Hill <revelizabethhill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 10:33 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Rev Elizabeth Hill
Sent from my iPhone

Legan Rose

From: sasc@cantricks.com
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Sherry Cantrick

Molly Wingrove

From: Connie Reddicliffe <connie@reddicliffe.net>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Please log my complaint: Local control matters

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Connie Reddicliffe

Glen Arbor, MI

Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: Steve Hamilton <hamiltonsteve811@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel mining

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

Rep. Coffia suggested I write to you about this issue. As a relatively new resident of Leelanau County who has witnessed a number of ill-conceived gravel mining proposals elsewhere, I write to express my strong support to maintain local control over decisions about gravel mining. The three house bills under consideration would take that away, while not giving EGLE the authority it would need to deny permits. I recognize that we need gravel mining, but it must be located in appropriate places with consideration of natural resources and local residents, and local units of government are best able to assess proposals. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hamilton
5685 E Amore Rd
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Molly Wingrove

From: Healthy Waters Alliance <healthywatersalliance.hope@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 2:12 PM
Subject: Vote NO on HB 4526-4527-4528 Our Side to the Aggregate Supply Story

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

May 13, 2023

From: The Healthy Waters Alliance, Delton, MI
To: Members of the Michigan Regulatory Commission
RE: Vote NO on HB 4526-4527-4528

Our Side to the Aggregate Supply Story

As Governor Whitmer has said, "Michigan is defined by our Great Lakes, which are visible from space and home to 21% of the world's fresh surface water. And just as important to us every day is our groundwater, which is used for drinking, farming, and so much more. Let's keep working to protect our Great Lakes and groundwater so Michigan can thrive for generations to come."

The Healthy Waters Alliance (HWA) is a local non-profit organization of 180 lake property owners on a 280-acre chain of lakes consisting of waters and watershed of the Cloverdale/Wilkinson/Jones/Mudd chain of lakes in Hope Township in Barry County. We are dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural character and purity of these lakes. Our members own property on or near these lakes, most with lake cottages as either their primary residence or as a summer cottage. We highly value the benefit derived from the natural, peaceful, and serene character of our properties.

You have already heard from many in our community as they have reached out to you through email or phone to let you know their concerns with House Bills 4526-4527-4528.

You heard testimony last week from the Michigan Aggregate Association who identified our community in their slide as "NIMBY's" who cost taxpayers money. There is another side, of course, to the story this committee heard.

The gravel mine application in Hope Township wanted to mine gravel directly on a 152-acre lake front parcel with 800 feet of lake frontage on our chain of lakes (see map below). There has never been a gravel pit on the shores of a recreational lake in the entire state of Michigan. This application, if approved would have been precedent setting. After a 2-year process with many delays and stalls by the applicant, the Hope Township planning commission appropriately denied this application. It was the wrong location which would have resulted in very serious consequences for the community. It should be noted that while this application was being considered an additional 800 acres of land was purchased by companies with gravel mining interests within a 6-mile radius of our lakes.

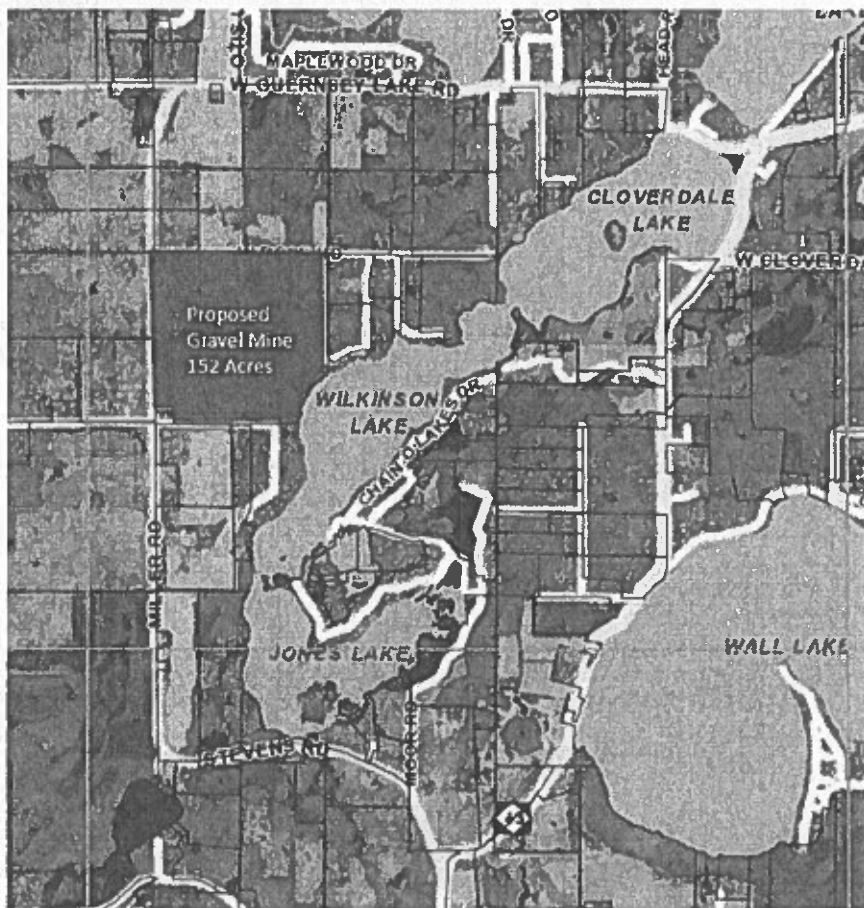
Local communities currently have the right to determine if there will be harmful and very serious consequences by corporate activities and must continue to have the final say when a corporation violates a community ordinance. The local community must be allowed to impose conditions regarding clean up, reclamation of land and have the power to force corporations to follow local ordinances. The people who vote in that community should have the final say, without punitive consequences, for wanting to protect their homes and natural resources.

We implore you to vote NO to these bills – they are one sided and will irreversibly destroy the health of our community and the environment. Help us find an equitable solution for all parties and not allow corporations with deep pockets to stomp on the rights and livelihoods of small-town residents.

Sincerely,

Healthy Waters Alliance Board of Directors

Ellen Berens, Gregg Berens, Sue Bowyer, Marilyn Breu,
Denise Eding, David Ellyatt, Bill Krueger, Scott Matteson



Molly Wingrove

From: Dave Bohmer <dbohmer@depauw.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel mining

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Molly,

I am writing at the suggestion of my state representative, Betsy Coffia, concerning the three pending bill on taking away local control over the establishment of gravel mines. I have lived in Leelanau County since 2014 and had a summer home here since 1987. I have observed the development of mines in Kasson Township, all of which have been decided locally and successfully. I am concerned that without local input and control over the decision-making process, we could lose important understanding concerning where those mines should be established with serious impact to both existing homes as well as the environment.

I would appreciate it if these concerns can be noted in the minutes of the committee involving the hearings on these bills.

Sincerely

David Bohmer
6839 S Glen Lake View Drive
Maple City, Michigan 49664

Sent from my iPad

Molly Wingrove

From: Truman Mast <mastfarrier@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Committee on Regulatory Reform

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, I am writing you today to voice my opposition on HB 4526, 4527 & 4528. The reason I am in opposition is, the regulations on Aggregate Mining need to stay with the local Municipalities. The communities where the mining is being done in, should be the ones making the decisions, not some Bureaucracy in Lansing.
Lapeer County Commissioner.
Vice Chair.
Truman Mast.

Molly Wingrove

From: M FISHER <fishermh20@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Re: Subject: re: House Bill#s: 4526,4527,4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

On Mon, May 15, 2023 at 9:20 AM M FISHER <fishermh20@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

Please include my testimony to your committee that my son and I oppose the aggregate mining bills mentioned above.

We have resided on Baatz Rd in Maple City for 16 years now. I grew up in Leelanau County amidst the lakes, farms, orchards, vineyards; and even having lived in several other states before returning home to raise my son here, I have supported the preservation of this county's land, water, habitat and resources.

If these bills are passed, the loss of local input on responsible mining will destroy the natural wildlife habitat and land on which this community thrives. Here on Baatz Rd we are now impacted by yet more expansion of Elmers gravel pits. The farms, lakes, National Park are all directly affected by this massive expansion. These bills - if passed- will threaten the health of those living near by and decrease the property values for those of us living closely to these areas.

As my father Jeff Fisher asked as well:

Please let the committee know that it is imperative to let the local government entities make the decisions as to where the mining should be done.

Attached is a photograph from a local resident of what is happening to the local area up the road on which we live:

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Morgan Fisher

--
M Fisher

Molly Wingrove

From: Lisa F <charliwings@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); tullioliverati@house.mi.gov; Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); cynthiaaneeley@house.mi.gov; Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); JerrNeyer@house.mi.gov; Molly Wingrove
Subject: Gravel Bills
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Regulatory Reform Committee member,

Hi, I am writing you in regards to the Gravel Mining Bills HB 4526-4528.

My name is Lisa Forton, I live in Kasson Township. I live a mile away from the township established gravel district which comprises 3000 acres and is expected to have 50-75 years worth of gravel for our area in Northern Michigan. The problem is, the local gravel companies bought up multiple parcels of residential land, outside of the gravel district, a couple of years ago, in hopes these gravel bills get passed.

My story....17 years ago I had \$15,000 in my retirement, I took \$7,500 to put down on 7.5 acres in a residential area. My husband is a paramedic, I am a nurse, we didn't have a lot but it was our little piece to build on. Since, we've built a home, have been raising our two children. We hunt, have family gatherings, target shoot, walk and just enjoy our piece of land. But then, a few years ago, a local gravel company purchased the adjacent 60 acres which is zoned residential. They clear cut the 60 acres next to us. While the timber company clear cut on the property next door, I had truck lights constantly shining in our house windows and noise at all hours..... that was just a 4 week project....things you cannot avoid when you are right next to the property. It is has been so stressful on our family the last few years wondering what is going to happen if these gravel bills take away our local zoning. We live on hills so there is no burm that could be built big enough to block our view of the potential gravel pit that could be our back deck view. The noise would be horrendous because we already hear the constant gravel mining from the district on a daily basis and that is 1 mile away. Both me and my husband, as well as my son suffer from asthma and dust allergies, so there are health risks involved as well. Not to mention the value of surrounding properties will plummet.

I really wish you could empathize, put yourselves in our place and think of your own children and grandchildren and how would you like this to happen to them. You think you are buying property in a residential area then all of sudden, you have a gravel mine in your backyard.

Our township supervisor, Greg Julian, has done a wonderful job of allowing gravel mining in our area to balance out the community. These gravel bills will devastate families and property values in an already compromised economy. Please consider the devastation to our local communities when you vote for stripping local regulation away.

Thank you
Lisa Forton

Legan Rose

From: david reinprod.com <david@reinprod.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
David Reinisch

Legan Rose

From: jmac201185@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 2:56 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

Legan Rose

From: stogsdilld@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms.

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Don Stogsdill
2179 N. Warden Pt. Rd.
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Legan Rose

From: bobgilbert224@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I am writing for the record to oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528. As a lawyer I'm not sure whether the legislature understands how terrible it is. Not only would it override local decision making, permitting mines anywhere regardless of zoning or health and safety considerations, but it would effectively override regulation at the state level (EGLE) as well. The state MUST approve if the mining applicant meets certain very loose "standards" regardless if the state sees the project as an environmental or health hazard. I don't believe that there is any other industrial enterprise that can be located anywhere, including areas zoned residential, without meaningful state or local review.

This abomination should never make it out of the House. I can visualize lawyers lining up to sue the state on behalf of homeowners for a "taking" without compensation when an aggregate operation is started up next door, destroying the market value of their house, after approval by the state.

Regardless, try to imagine a noisy, dusty and ugly gravel mine next to your house!

Sincerely,
Bob Gilbert

Sent from my iPhone

Legan Rose

From: Kate Safford <katesafford@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 4:20 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose, I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Kate and Randy Safford, Birmingham, MI 48009
Also property owners in Northport, MI

Legan Rose

From: Jim Kletzien <jimk@focus-tech.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 12:33 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

We strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like ours from the decision-making process. We believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

James & Laurie Kletzien
Oakland Twp & Leland Twp, MI 48306 & 49653
+1-248-342-6746

Legan Rose

From: Betsy Hendricks <betsyahend@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 7:05 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hendricks
Sent from my iPhone

Legan Rose

From: Laura Nilsson <laura_nilsson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:18 AM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Laura Nilsson
2801 W. Armstrong Lake Trl.
Empire, MI 49630

Legan Rose

From: Jill M Hennig <eavision1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 7:41 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Jill Hennig
eavision1@gmail.com

Legan Rose

From: Nicholas Darby <nick.darby@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 5:07 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

As a property owner and part time resident of Leelanau county, I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. Enough damage to that environment has been done already. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Darby

nick.darby@icloud.com
517-402-6543

Legan Rose

From: Steven Lee <stevenlee.attorney@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:18 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. These bills must not be passed, time and again the mining operations have shown their only interest is profit and not the local community. You can see this in the clear cutting of forests that has been done in our local county on land the gravel company hopes to use to expand their mining pit and in the way they have destroyed the tree buffer around the Elmer's mining pit they already own.

Sincerely,
Steven Lee, Esq.
13964 S Springview Dr
Empire, MI 49630
231-221-0050 (law office)

Legan Rose

From: Ken Fishman <ken.a.fishman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:58 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Ken Fishman

Legan Rose

From: Kris Fishman <kbfishman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Kris Fishman
8031 W Day Forest Road
Empire, MI 49630

Molly Wingrove

From: Christi Bardenhagen <c.l.bardenhagen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526, 4527 and 4528

Dear Ms. Wingrove,

As residents of Leelanau County, we believe these bills pose a serious threat to our county. The citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Gary and Christi Bardenhagen

1888 N Eagle Hwy, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Legan Rose

From: Becky Thatcher <becky@beckythatcherdesigns.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 12:24 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

In the interest of long time economic stability, and preservation of our unique natural landscape and environment, I write you today.

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Becky Thatcher

Legan Rose

From: Doug McFerren <dougmcferren1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose, I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved. Please protect local communities rights to determine whether or not to allow new sand and gravel surface mines.

Sincerely,
Doug and Kathy McFerren

Molly Wingrove

From: Jack <jackhag1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:41 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Local control

The people in elected positions should represent the people who voted them in. If we give up local control over sand and gravel mining we are taking power away from the people who we serve. Don't allow this to happen.

His,

Jack

Legan Rose

From: Candy Petrick <candypetrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:20 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely, Candy Petrick

Legan Rose

From: Jane Westerfield <jwest2125@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 9:06 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I very strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,

Jane Westerfield
Allendale,MI

Molly Wingrove

From: c Bonham <cp2383@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House bill 4526, 4527, 4528

I am a local resident of Southeast Michigan residing in 48182 zip code. The lakes in the Irish Hills are important to me and my family by providing beautiful space for us to enjoy the natural resources that Michigan has to offer. House bills 4526, 4527, 4528 put this area in significant risk by removing local authority to evaluate, review, and balance the need and value of sand and gravel deposits in this community with the very serious consequences extraction of these deposits would create to our most valuable natural resource, WATER! Not to mention the impact these industrial operations have on the surrounding wildlife and environment.

I am asking you as my state representative to oppose house bill 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: Gina Harder <trusteegina@leelanautownshipmi.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526-4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Molly,

As you know, House Bills 4526-4528 would bypass local zoning and authority and allow gravel and sand mining practices to be regulated by the State (EGLE). Local governments have a unique understanding of the nuisances of communities. Local Zoning Ordinances are written by Commissioners who represent a variety of local interests. The process of Ordinance writing involves the Public in decision making via Public Hearings, Public Comment, etc.. Therefore, local Ordinances are tailored to the Community by the Community. The process carefully considers health, welfare, and property values in the community. In Leelanau Township, our priorities are to preserve the natural landscape, environment and beauty to facilitate the tourism industry and preserve the pristine waters and landscape that we all love. Our area is a destination for those who seek beautiful scenery in a car ride, bike ride, boat ride, etc.. The aesthetics of properties visible from the Pure Michigan highway (M22) and other scenic roads are critical to the current way of life and future of our area. Local governments must have final control over development and industry in rural areas to sustain the unique character and desirability of our Communities.

Please my strong opposition to legislation that would remove authority from Local Government.

Kind Regards,

Gina Harder, Leelanau Township Trustee
Please visit our website:
<https://leelanautownshipmi.gov>

Legan Rose

From: Holly Kowalske <northwindhmk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 2:33 PM
To: Legan Rose
Subject: Oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528

Dear Ms. Rose,

I strongly oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. New, large surface mining operations would threaten our local tourism and agricultural economy, the scenic beauty and ecological integrity of the area, and our drinking water. These bills remove local communities like mine from the decision-making process. I believe the citizens of each community should have the right to decide for themselves how their natural resources should be used or conserved.

Sincerely,
Holly Kowalske
8022 E Hoxie Rd
Cedar, MI 49621

Molly Wingrove

From: Joe Mira <jjmira@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:42 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526 4527 and 4528

I am a resident of Cambridge Twp. A proposed grant mining operation is being considered in our township. The great majority of residents are today opposed to it, probably not unlike most communities dealing with the same issue. The above bills if passed would take away the local control of issues such as this and transfer it to political forces in Lansing. Please don't support taking the power away from local communities to people who know nothing about those communities. It's just not right and goes against what this whole thing is all about, "We The People". Please don't take away what is so important to us, our vote!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Joe Mira
975 Cambridge Dr
Onsted, MI 49265
(734)330-6527

Sent from my iPhone

Dear House and Senate Representatives:

I am a citizen of Cambridge Township MI. I AM OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT HOUSE BILLS 4526, 4527 and 4528.

The people of MI need a voice in local issues of health, safety and quality of life in their local governments! These bills are written by and for the Aggregate Mining Industry ONLY and would diminish and eradicate local government authority for Citizens. **That is the destruction of our Democracy and our Constitution. How can any government official that has a conscience approve these bills on either side?**

There will be serious political consequences for both local and state officials voting for these bills. **In the beginning and in the end, we vote for you.** It is evident that current research and investigation has been done showing House Representatives, especially on the Committee that wrote these bills with the mining industry, have received funds for political gain from the aggregate mining companies. That is a travesty on both sides!

These bills are disguised as helping zoning issues and supporting road construction, but as the serious consequences listed below show, they would cause destruction of the infrastructure and residential homes. These bills eliminate the voice of the people to their local governments to ensure guidelines and rules for gravel mining to protect their families, environment and properties from the proven serious consequences of Aggregate Mining including:

- Noise and Vibration
- Visual Impacts
- Silica Dust, Air Quality and Proven Health Risks: Quarries create invisible dust particles proven to cause silicosis—a progressive, incurable lung disease. Long-term exposure to particulate matter is strongly associated with heart disease, stroke, infertility, and pregnancy complications. The silica dust is released during the gravel mining process, and without effective mitigation measures, the wind can carry it off-site. Breathing silica dust can aggravate a person's airways, and prolonged exposure can lead to fatal lung diseases like Silicosis. Silica Dust can silently affect people and animals within an 8-mile radius depending on wind gusts. Currently in Brooklyn MI, they are proposing sites that are 200 ft. or less from residential homes!
- Traffic and Safety
- Property Values
- Destruction of Private Wells and Surface Water
- Infrastructure & Maintenance: Aggregate Mining traffic has been proven to cause fatal accidents, destroy road quality and pose serious threats to residences within the vicinity of the mining activity.
- Municipal Property Tax Impacts
- Destruction of Municipal Public Wells/Watersheds, Ground and Surface Water

Local communities and governments must have a say in these issues to understand and protect the citizens from the proven serious health consequences of aggregate mining and the destruction of their communities and property values.

Vote NO on these bills! It is your oath and duty to restore our faith in the government of Michigan and protect our democracy, not pocket money from the mining companies! Put the people of this State first! Restore our faith on both sides of the aisle!

Lori Mantyla, Brooklyn MI

Molly Wingrove

From: sandra MASSERANT <smasserant@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 11:25 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526,4527, 4528

5/22/2023

To Regulatory Reform Committee C/O Molly Wingrove(Committee Clerk),

Re: House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528.

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the proposed Bills 4526, 4527, 4528. I live at 940 Cambridge Dr. Full time which is known as "The Irish Hills area". It has been a place of refuge from the hustle and bustle of a larger city for many and a place of peace and quiet. I say its a "little piece of heaven here on earth" with numerous lakes and wooded areas full of nature and beauty.

The above Bills would take away the voices of the community. A sand and gravel pit would be devastating and ruin the quality of life that myself and others enjoy very much. I strongly urge you to oppose Bill 4526,4527,4528 and listen to the people.

Sincerely,

Sandra Masserant

Molly Wingrove

From: Masserant, John (John) <jmassera@med.umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:59 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: Re: House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528

5/22/2023

To Regulatory Reform Committee C/O Molly Wingrove (Committee Clerk),

Re: House Bills 4526,4527,4528.

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the proposed Bills 4526, 4527, 4528. I live on 940 Cambridge Dr., Onsted full time, which is located at the mouth of Kelly Lake and plan to retire here. A sand and gravel pit would be devastating and ruin the quality of life that myself and others enjoy very much. The noise levels are low and the enjoyment of nature high. I grew up at 8479 Chinavare Rd, Newport, Mi and in my teens a gravel pit went into operation less than a mile away, within the first few years we lost the well on our farm. My mother was filling the coffee pot one morning and the water was black. I often think of what contaminants may have leached into our well before we had a color change. Fortunately for our family and farm they were in the process of bringing city water down the road so our burden was short. We also had to deal with weekly blasting that shook our house at lunch time and damaged my brothers foundation on his home which was ~1/2 mile away from the pit.

I strongly urge you to reject Bills 4526, 4527, 4528. The proposed bills would take away the authority of local communities from having a voice in decisions regarding something that would have a large impact on the local community. To squelch the voice of the people in local communities is a huge mistake. This should have bipartisan opposition. When we no longer listen to the people we no longer have a democracy.

Sincerely,

John Masserant

Electronic Mail is not secure, may not be read every day, and should not be used for urgent or sensitive issues

Molly Wingrove

From: pamgreen <pamgreen@umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:57 PM
To: Rep. Dale W. Zorn (District 34); senjbellino@senate.michigan.gov; Molly Wingrove
Subject: Oppose litigation stripping local oversight over sand and gravel mining operations

To whom this may concern:

I am a local resident of Cambridge township Michigan, better known as the Irish Hills of Michigan. This area is surrounded by at least twenty kettle lakes created by the glaciers millions of years ago. Along with our beautiful lakes, the glaciers also just positive sand and gravel in my area as well as many, many places throughout the state of Michigan. House bills 4526, 4527, And 4528 put my area at significant risk by removing local authority to evaluate, Review and balance the need and value of sand and gravel deposits in our community with the very serious consequences extraction of these deposits would create 2 are most. Valuable natural resource, Our water! Not to mention the impacts of these industrial operations will have on the surrounding environment and wildlife as well as my personal health, Safety and welfare as a result of sand and gravel extraction. I am asking you to OPPOSE house bill 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Thank you
Pam Green
1040 Cambridge Dr
Onsted, MI 49265

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Molly Wingrove

From: Fred Fraser <fjfraserus@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:55 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526,4527 and 4528

Dear Molly Wingrove,

As a constituent of Lenawee County and a resident of Cambridge Township, I am as asking that you oppose these bills House Bills 4526,4527 and 4528 which will eliminate local authority.

The governing of a local community is best done with the residents living in the area to meet its needs and elected by them.

Sincerely,

Fred and Jo-Ann Fraser

Molly Wingrove

From: Jill Ortmann <ortmannjill@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:06 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527, 4528

Dear Ms. Wingrove and the Regulatory Reform Committee:

I am asking you to stand with Michigan communities and oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

I am currently a resident of Saline, however, this summer I will become a permanent resident in Cambridge Township.

My husband and I were looking forward to retiring in the Irish Hills on Wamplers Lake. Our home is on the west side of the lake where my family has enjoyed the peace and quiet of living on such a beautiful lake part time throughout the year for the past 6 years. We have made friends with the residents in our small lake community. We have enjoyed the bald eagles, the cohesive community life, the lake activities, Walter Hayes State Park and all of the beautiful and glorious sunrises over the lake. We are planning to become permanent residents this summer of 2023. We will be using US-12 to commute to work for the next few years. As you know, there is a proposed gravel mine site less than a quarter mile from our neighborhood. It is adjacent to wetlands that are contiguous with Wamplers Lake. I have been voicing my concerns and opposition, along with many residents in Cambridge Township, at the planning commission meetings. I have felt that the commission members have at least been listening to the concerns of the residents they represent.

Due to the above reasons, I have been following the proposed House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 that in essence take away all local control for the approval of sand and gravel mines. These Bills were not passed last year, and I was surprised to find them rapidly reinstated for voting/review this past week. I do not pretend to have any legal or governmental knowledge; however, it is my understanding that zoning and ordinance changes take place at the local level of government. I am curious as to why this would not be true for the aggregate mining industry and wonder why the support to target this specific industry to be regulated by the state.

Aggregate is commonly found throughout the United States. There are mines in all 50 states. Michigan is one of the most heavily mined states for gravel/sand/aggregate. According to the 2022 data from the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, Michigan is 6th for the number of mines in the country with 436 active aggregate mines. Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania are the top five states with the most gravel/sand/aggregate mines in the country. Where is all this product from Michigan going? Clearly, it is not staying in Michigan to fix the roads. Why are these residential areas being targeted by the aggregate companies? Another incidental and interesting fact shown in this data is that Michigan employs proportionally less people per number of mines compared to most other states. Clearly these gravel pits are not helping get people back to work here in Michigan **and** the product is not staying in Michigan to benefit the state. The 2016 MDOT study, later found to be funded by the Michigan Aggregate industry, had lamented the shortage of aggregate in this state. If this is true, why is Michigan one of the top exporters of aggregate in the nation? One could argue that Michigan is being sold off to other surrounding states quite literally.

Aggregate mining has shown to have very serious consequences and the push to place this industry in urban/suburban/resort areas is frightening for residents where this industry is targeting. Just ask the residents in Dundee who lost their wells and had to truck in tankers of water, for years, just to live. Local governmental control can attempt to mitigate these very serious consequences of this industry when residential areas are targeted as mining sites. With Michigan having 436 mines, I wonder how effective the State's oversight and regulation will actually be with such a large volume of sites. To date, Michigan hasn't been able to even map the aggregate supplies throughout the state.

Here are the **Very Serious Consequences** from aggregate mining in residential/lake/urban areas:

1. Ground water disturbance- Mining operations, washing, dust control and digging has the high probability of disturbing already fragile groundwater and aquifer sources. There is potential impact for water contamination and reduction of nearby lakes, streams as well as residential wells. Flooding can also be a possibility when aquifers and groundwater structures are disturbed causing the movement of water out of one area to another. Additionally, we rely on groundwater for wells. What happens when wells go dry or the water table drops in the lakes and the channels no longer allow lake access? Also, what will be the impact on the waste removal infrastructure around lakes? **Who will guarantee that all of these will not be damaged during the active mining project and who will compensate property owners if they are damaged? The State of Michigan? The mining company?**
2. Impact on local eco-systems-Potential damage to wetlands, wildlife and fishery habitats. The wetlands in Michigan provide an amazing habitat for a large variety of migrating birds as well as yearlong resident species, numerous wildlife and fish. There are also eagles residing in the wetland areas all around the state. The entire eco-system surrounding these sites will be negatively impacted during the mining and will most likely never recover, even when the active mining is completed and reclamation done.
3. Impact on health due to toxic fumes and crystalline silica dust. Silica dust has proven links to debilitating diseases that lead to death including silicosis, lung cancer, COPD, renal failure, as well as causing auto-immune diseases. This fine dust travels for many miles causing these health concerns for residents not even in the immediate vicinity of these proposed mines. **How will the State of Michigan monitor and ensure that the air quality in the residential areas surrounding these open aggregate mining is in fact safe?**
4. Noise pollution - There will be noise from sunup to sundown, seven days per week for most of the year. The revving of diesel engines from gravel trucks, bull dozers, crushers, sorters, and other equipment and the constant annoyance backup beeping will occur daily for 10 hours or more. The noise and noxious smells will lead to loss of property enjoyment.
5. Open pit gravel mines drastically reduce property values and damaged property values severely affect tax revenues!
6. Traffic Safety- **Everyone** traveling the highways should have significant concerns about gravel haulers coming in and out of these sites. The danger gravel truck traffic would create, is deadly. The proposed mining project in my area is adding an estimated daily 200+ gravel trucks to US-12. This poses a threat to pedestrians, cars, school buses and those riding motorcycles. This threat continues down the entire route that these haulers will take on US-12.
7. Impact of existing land uses. In Cambridge Township there are **many** residential areas around these proposed sites. There is a camp. There is a state park. Please tell me how this proposed gravel/sand pit will fit into this land use mix? This mining project will only negatively impact the quality of life for those living and traveling to this area.

Michigan's gravel statute provides categories of 'very serious consequences' (VSC) into which all of these concerns can be grouped [MCL § 125.3205 (5) (a) through (f)]. Using broad labels, these

include Existing Land Uses, Environmental Issues, Protection of Property Values, Traffic Safety, and Local Health, Safety, & Welfare.

I am writing this email to for your support to **oppose** this legislative attack that preempts **all** local zoning, administration and ordinances over an industry that will have lasting, detrimental effects on Michigan communities, the environment, property and quality of life for those communities. I am asking you to stand with Michigan communities and oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Ortmann

Molly Wingrove

From: ed rays <ed.rays56@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 5:42 PM
To: Molly Wingrove; ed rays
Subject: Oppose HB 4526, 4527, and 4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

We purchased and moved to the Irish Hills Area community to escape the city life, and to enjoy the rural atmosphere that the Irish Hills Area has to offer. There are 52 lakes within the Irish Hills Area, and it is well known for its conservation presence for southern Michigan. The impact to the community by heavy mining is inconceivable. When there's such a small community trying to preserve our natural environment, I believe our voices must be heard. Local zoning is intended to protect local residents, and businesses. That is why I believe it is best that these decisions are debated and decided at the local level. In short, I'm totally against House Bill 4526, 4527, and 4528. These Bills eliminate the ability of local units of government to balance the needs, interests, and safety of their residents, businesses, and property owners.

At this point, we are at a crossroad for our conservation movement. Hopefully we have learned from our past ecological mishaps, and we can apply these lessons learned to future projects. We are asking to uphold the beautiful setting that the glaciers created some tens of thousands of years ago, and not merely destroy it within a moment in time.

Environmental Impact

Moving forward with these pits or quarries requires the removal of virtually all-natural vegetation, top soil and subsoil to reach the aggregate underneath. Not only does this lead to a loss of existing animal wildlife, it also leads to a huge loss of biodiversity as plants and aquatic habitats are destroyed. Of course, each pit or quarry has unique characteristics and impacts, but every pit or quarry will degrade the natural environment. For pits or quarries situated on lands designated as ecologically significant, this degradation has an even greater adverse impact. Pits and quarries disrupt the existing movement of surface water and groundwater; they interrupt natural water recharge and can lead to reduced quantity and quality of drinking water for residents, and wildlife near or downstream from a pits or quarries site.

With all of the natural beauties that the Irish Hills has to offer, pits or quarries are not part of this environment. These pits or quarries need to be located in a more industrial setting, far away from these priceless lakes and natural resources that the Irish Hills are known for. Can you please verify and forward me all copies that the following studies have been commissioned and reviewed for local ecological issues:

- Has there been an impairment of water quality study for the proposed site, including harm to the aquifer study?
- Has there been a water quality study for nearby residential wells study?
- The water levels of on-site lakes could be reduced, detrimentally affecting wetlands. Has this been studied?
- Has there been a heightened summer water temperature study for nearby lakes' destructive impact on the viability of cold-water fish?
- Potential harm to on-site and off-site wetlands study?
- Potential loss and fragmentation of continuous natural environment study?
- Has there been an environmental impact study performed on the carbon footprint for all of the diesel-powered equipment required to maintain the operations?
- Has there been a traffic and safety study performed for both pedestrians and the additional heavy trucks?
- Can the roads handle all of the added volume of traffic and heavy loading study? Is Person/Pink Rd a Class C Road, not rated for these proposed heavy trucks loading?
- Has there been a noise attenuation study for the nearby areas?
- Has there been a soil erosion and impact study?

Health Risks of Exposure

Breathing in dust from the airborne silica-containing materials can lead to silicosis. Silica dust particles become trapped in lung tissue causing inflammation and scarring. The particles also reduce the lungs' ability to take in oxygen. This condition is called silicosis. Silicosis results in permanent lung damage and is a progressive, debilitating, and sometimes fatal disease. Exposed to airborne crystalline silica are at an increased risk for lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. The excavating going on in these pits and quarries will generate dangerous air borne crystalline silica dust that can become trapped in lung tissue and cause silicosis.

Silicosis can develop or progress to the surrounding neighbors, with the constant exposure to the airborne crystalline silica particles. There is no cure for silicosis and, in some patients, may compromise their quality of life, require lung transplantation, or result in death.

Property Values

It is well known that the neighboring property values will diminish proportionally, based on the proximity and the ill environmental impact that these pits or quarries cause. Studies show that these pits and quarries can impact the environment for miles around. Many times these mining companies are Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), they move in, mine the area, and leave the community responsible to correct the many issues that they leave behind. Many individuals take advantage of the LLC mode of doing business, as LLCs offer considerable protection of the personal assets for the owners. Also, LLCs can also limit the timeframe for unknown claims that can be asserted against them.

If you do not have aggregate mines in your community, these efforts are still a treat to all local governments. This is another example of legislative efforts to erode local authority and preempt your municipality's ability to best serve your residents and community. It is critically important to contact your State Representative and Senators to OPPOSE these Bills that would allow a takeover at the local control, and will allow the State to take over matters of local concerns.

Molly Wingrove

From: Lise Warren <lisemobius@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:40 PM
To: Rep. Carrie A. Rheingans (District 47); senshink@senate.michigan.gov; Rep. Dale W. Zorn (District 34); senjbellino@senate.michigan.gov; Molly Wingrove
Subject: No gravel pit in the Irish Hills

We purchased and moved to the Irish Hills Area community to escape the city life, and to enjoy the rural atmosphere that the Irish Hills Area has to offer. There are 52 lakes within the Irish Hills Area, and it is well known for its conservation presence for southern Michigan. The impact to the community by heavy mining is inconceivable. When there's such a small community trying to preserve our natural environment, I believe our voices must be heard. Local zoning is intended to protect local residents, and businesses. That is why I believe it is best that these decisions are debated and decided at the local level. In short, I'm totally against House Bill 4526, 4527, and 4528. These Bills eliminate the ability of local units of government to balance the needs, interests, and safety of their residents, businesses, and property owners.

At this point, we are at a crossroad for our conservation movement. Hopefully we have learned from our past ecological mishaps, and we can apply these lessons learned to future projects. We are asking to uphold the beautiful setting that the glaciers created some tens of thousands of years ago, and not merely destroy it within a moment in time.

Environmental Impact

Moving forward with these pits or quarries requires the removal of virtually all-natural vegetation, top soil and subsoil to reach the aggregate underneath. Not only does this lead to a loss of existing animal wildlife, it also leads to a huge loss of biodiversity as plants and aquatic habitats are destroyed. Of course, each pit or quarry has unique characteristics and impacts, but every pit or quarry will degrade the natural environment. For pits or quarries situated on lands designated as ecologically significant, this degradation has an even greater adverse impact. Pits and quarries disrupt the existing movement of surface water and groundwater; they interrupt natural water recharge and can lead to reduced quantity and quality of drinking water for residents, and wildlife near or downstream from a pits or quarries site.

With all of the natural beauties that the Irish Hills has to offer, pits or quarries are not part of this environment. These pits or quarries need to be located in a more industrial setting, far away from these priceless lakes and natural resources that the Irish Hills are known for. Can you please verify and forward me all copies that the following studies have been commissioned and reviewed for local ecological issues:

- Has there been an impairment of water quality study for the proposed site, including harm to the aquifer study?
- Has there been a water quality study for nearby residential wells study?
- The water levels of on-site lakes could be reduced, detrimentally affecting wetlands. Has this been studied?
- Has there been a heightened summer water temperature study for nearby lakes' destructive impact on the viability of cold-water fish?
- Potential harm to on-site and off-site wetlands study?
- Potential loss and fragmentation of continuous natural environment study?
- Has there been an environmental impact study performed on the carbon footprint for all of the diesel-powered equipment required to maintain the operations?
- Has there been a traffic and safety study performed for both pedestrians and the additional heavy trucks?

- Can the roads handle all of the added volume of traffic and heavy loading study? Is Person/Pink Rd a Class C Road, not rated for these proposed heavy trucks loading?
- Has there been a noise attenuation study for the nearby areas?
- Has there been a soil erosion and impact study?

Health Risks of Exposure

Breathing in dust from the airborne silica-containing materials can lead to silicosis. Silica dust particles become trapped in lung tissue causing inflammation and scarring. The particles also reduce the lungs' ability to take in oxygen. This condition is called silicosis. Silicosis results in permanent lung damage and is a progressive, debilitating, and sometimes fatal disease. Exposed to airborne crystalline silica are at an increased risk for lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. The excavating going on in these pits and quarries will generate dangerous air borne crystalline silica dust that can become trapped in lung tissue and cause silicosis.

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If you do not have aggregate mines in your community, these efforts are still a treat to all local governments. This is another example of legislative efforts to erode local authority and preempt your municipality's ability to best serve your residents and community. It is critically important to contact your State Representative and Senators to OPPOSE these Bills that would allow a takeover at the local control, and will allow the State to take over matters of local concerns.

Lise

Live Life to the Fullest..
may it be somewhere

with your toes in the sand



Molly Wingrove

From: Karen Stasevich <karenstasevich@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 8:11 PM
To: Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); Rep. Jerry Neyer (District 92); Molly Wingrove
Subject: Oppose HB 4526-4528 Gravel Mining Bills

HB 4526 - 4528

As a person born and raised in Richland Michigan, with a family home near a proposed gravel pit, I urge the Regulatory Reform Action Committee to oppose HB4526-4528, which are very favorable to gravel companies and strip rights away from local authorities, communities, and property owners. My hometown a semi-rural beauty of mixed forest and farmland with the vibrance of the city of Kalamazoo, with major employers and higher education institutions, nearby -- this is not some redneck community in the sticks where no one cares what happens. The affluent Gull Lake community is at the center of our community and we treasure our natural environment -- it's why we live here!

Some of the MAJOR problems with the bills are the following:

- They specifically remove sand and gravel from the current MZEA provisions, so there is no requirement to prove need, value, or Very Serious Consequences. No mechanism to appeal a decision by EGLE.
- The bill specifically supersedes all local zoning and master plan provisions. Local units of government are totally uninvolved.
- They would allow mining up to 50 ft of a permitted property line.
- They will allow for sound levels at the property line of 75 dbA on an 8-hour time weighted average. That means they could make a huge racket for half a day if they were relatively quiet the rest of the day. And spot checks of dbA levels will do no good as you would have to continuously monitor the entire day to get the average. This requires some fancy equipment to do that, so it is basically unenforceable.
- Allows for periodic air blasts of 133 dbA. Ouch!
- If a person files a complaint with EGLE and EGLE investigates and dismisses the complaint and if that person files another complaint that is ultimately dismissed, the person who files the complaint will pay all EGLE's cost to investigate.
- Permits are valid for the life of the mine but may be rescinded if mine activity does not start within 10 years. So, they could just build an access road after nine years and that would meet the requirement for mining activity. This is just the miners wanting to lock up a reserve of permitted sites before more stringent controls are imposed in the future.
- No public hearing is required. EGLE may schedule one at its discretion and only must provide 5 days' notice.
- Reclamation security is required, but only \$3000 - \$8000 per acre (not enough), with no provision for annual escalation for inflation.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. These bills are tragically awful and could result in a dramatic decrease in quality of life for so many people living near these sites, as well as the blighting of the communities in which these mines would be located.

Throw these bills out! Our communities will not stand for this!

Karen Stasevich
Landscape Architect

Molly Wingrove

From: Terry DiLorenzo <terrydilorenzo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526,4527,4528

Dear Molly: I live in Cambridge township Michigan Irish Hills. I am writing to you today to oppose the pending legislation Bills 4526,4527,4528. I love the Irish Hills and so do my children and grandchildren. Please do whats right for our community. Thank you

Molly Wingrove

From: Joseph Crisante <jokersant@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 7:46 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526/4527/4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Wingrove:

I recently reconnected with my high school sweetheart and we purchased a beautiful lake house to retire to in the scenic resort Irish Hills area located in Southeastern Michigan in the village of Brooklyn. It is heartbreaking to think that our peaceful paradise could be turned into an obnoxiously loud, high traffic area transporting gravel every 7 minutes, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week onto highly trafficked historic US 12. In addition, the loud operations of mining that gravel (which produces carcinogenic silica dust) is less than 2 miles from our lake house retreat. Additionally, the effect these operations could have on our well water and lake levels would reduce our property value significantly.

I am a retired Power Plant Engineer who is familiar with OSHA and the dangers of industrial sandblasting and Silicosis. Gravel mines emitting silica dust would have very serious consequences especially to the young and elderly in our area. What really disturbs me and what I find to be totally abhorrent is that a gravel mining operation could write House Bills to propose to the legislature that would benefit THEM by taking away the powers of the locally elected township officers. Furthermore, it seems to me to be a HUGE conflict of interest and there is no NEED to mine this gravel as Michigan is the top exporter of gravel in the country.

I want to go on record that I am opposed to House Bills:
HB 4526
HB 4527
HB 4528

I urge you to not pass these proposed bills. Let local governments decide what is best for their communities with input from their citizens.

Sincerely,
Joseph B Crisante
10213 Emerald Dr
Brooklyn, MI 49230
740-457-2405



ReplyForward

Molly Wingrove

From: bill waara <jakyleda@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 4, 2023 11:51 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: GRAVEL PIT CAMBRIDGE TWP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

i AM TOTALLY AGAINST THE GRAVEL PIT IN CAMBRIDGE TWP

Molly Wingrove

From: Alicia DeCaria <adecaria@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2023 5:52 PM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB4526/HB4527/HB4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms Wingrove:

I recently reconnected with my high school sweetheart and we purchased a beautiful lake house to retire to in the scenic resort Irish Hills area located in Southeastern Michigan in the quaint village of Brooklyn. It is heartbreaking to think that our peaceful paradise could be turned into an obnoxiously loud, high traffic area transporting gravel every 7 minutes, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week onto highly trafficked historic US 12. In addition, the loud operations of mining that gravel (which produces carcinogenic silica dust) is less than 2 miles from our lake house retreat. Additionally, the effect these operations could have on our well water and lake levels would reduce our property value significantly.

I am a retired RN whose entire career has been in the field of Oncology and know all too well of the inherent fatalistic dangers of carcinogenic particulate matter which has very serious consequences especially to the young and elderly. What really disturbs me and what I find to be totally abhorrent is that a gravel mining operation could write House Bills to propose to legislature that would benefit THEM by taking away the powers of the locally elected township officers. Furthermore, it seems to me to be a HUGE conflict of interest and there is no NEED to mine this gravel as Michigan is the top exporter of gravel in the country.

I want to go on record that I am adamantly opposed to House Bills:
HB 4526
HB 4527
HB 4528

I urge you to not pass these proposed bills...LET THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECIDE!!!!

Sincerely Concerned Taxpayer,
Alicia L DeCaria
10213 Emerald Dr
Brooklyn, MI 49230
734-673-0894

Sent from my iPhone

Molly Wingrove

From: Kelly Cichy <kelly.cpih@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 3, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Rep. Angela Witwer (District 76); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Brenda Carter (District 53); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Pat Outman (District 91); Rep. Amos O'Neal (District 94); Rep. Andrew Beeler (District 64); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Bryan Posthumus (District 90); Rep. Tom Kuse (District 100); Rep. Bill G. Schuette (District 95); Rep. Luke Meerman (District 89); Rep. Curtis S. VanderWall (District 102); Molly Wingrove
Subject: HB 4526, 4527, 4528

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to you to ask you to stand with Michigan communities and OPPOSE House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528. These bills contain far-reaching legislation that would usurp all local authority and allow a sand and gravel mine, crushing facility, or storage facility to operate anywhere in a community, regardless of zoning, undermining the ability of local officials to balance the needs of all property owners in their jurisdiction.

Local zoning is intended to protect local residents and local officials understand the importance of building strong communities, protecting health and safety, and improving quality of life. Local leaders can best balance the responsibility of being good stewards of public resources and the needs of residents and the businesses that support the local economy. I acknowledge that aggregate material is necessary to fix Michigan's roads. However, the current process and legislation contained within the Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act (MZEA) allows for local governments to balance those needs along with those of their community. Gravel mining is a necessary but disruptive, large scale, heavy industrial operation with long-term negative impacts. There are appropriate and inappropriate locations for such operations. The best decisions about this are made locally, and local governments recognize that the MZEA prohibits overly restrictive requirements that would preclude all local mining.

I urge you to listen to all of the local governmental units and citizens of the State of Michigan who are speaking up and OPPOSE House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528.

Molly Wingrove

From: Michael Trudeau <michael.trudeau@trudeau-associates.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 9:09 AM
To: Molly Wingrove; Rep. Angela Witwer (District 76); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Brenda Carter (District 53); Rep. Pat Outman (District 91); Rep. Amos O'Neal (District 94); Rep. Andrew Beeler (District 64); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Bryan Posthumus (District 90); Rep. Tom Kunse (District 100); Rep. Bill G. Schuette (District 95); Rep. Luke Meerman (District 89); Rep. Curtis S. VanderWall (District 102); Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87)
Cc: Office of Sen. Bayer; Rep. Dale W. Zorn (District 34); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2)
Subject: HB 4526-4527-4528
Attachments: 19C. Irish Hills Gravel Mine Letter.pdf; Gravel-Pit-Opposition-Letter_Dec2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Tyrone Carter
Molly Wingrove and all.

I represent Citizens Protect Irish Hills. I am the spokesperson and Managing Member of our MI Non-Profit Citizens Protect Irish Hills. Our group and thousands of citizens and businesses from several surrounding municipalities and townships are opposed to HB 4526-4527-4528.

In fact, two Special Use Permit applications have been submitted for mining operations here in Cambridge Twp also known to many as The Irish Hills. Citizens Protect Irish Hills and the thousands of other citizens and businesses mentioned above are also opposed to any gravel and sand extractions in Cambridge Twp and the surrounding communities.

Here in Cambridge Twp, we formed a citizens group in Oct 2022 after public notice went out about a mining application for a Special Use Permit and subsequent review by the Planning Commission. We now have over 5000 local citizens from several municipalities and businesses opposed to the mines and applications going on currently right here in Cambridge Twp.

Why are we opposed to HB 4526-4527-4528 and industrial mining operations in lake front residential areas? Well, you'd have to understand the area, the 25 plus lakes within a 2.5 mile radius of the proposed mine, different land AND lake elevation changes, various aquifers, the vast wetlands, glacial end moraines, rich soils, highly important watersheds that supply drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people, the unique environmental area, and oh yes, our residential constitutional rights.

HB 4526-4527-4528 directly contradicts what is happening here in Cambridge Twp. That is, local government at work. You seem to be creating a problem where one does not exist. These bills we have been informed, were structured, and written with only the Michigan Aggregates Association at the table? No citizens group, environmentalist groups, or land conservancy groups were at the table. This seems rather suspicious, if true.

Citizens Protect Irish Hills is a non-profit formed solely to educate about the industrial operations of the aggregate industry. We formed to educate our Planning Commission, Twp Board, and the public, about mining

and aggregate gravel and sand extraction and all that comes with it. We have taken an educational and informative dialogue approach. No one is screaming at our Twp. In fact, we have great dialogue with our Twp.

The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act MCL 125.3205 lists very serious consequences which must be adhered to when considering any industrial extraction operation, let alone in communities, like Cambridge Twp that are fragile in so many ways. See attached letters. Are the VSCs listed in the MZEA just fairy tales? They don't actually exist? Reference *Silva vs Ada township*, 416 Mich 153 (1982).

Our citizens just don't believe an industrial operation belongs near lakes and residential homes here in the Irish Hills. And we are willing to say so. We think our local government can handle the Special Use Permit process just fine.

Which leads to local government. Why would any municipality want to lose control to State controlled "leadership"? This alone could lead to very serious consequences of a different nature when large government attempts to take over small ones. This is not how Michigan was built.

Here in Cambridge Twp, widely known to all as the Irish Hills, our local government, is indeed working. The applicant here did not address any of the MZEA VSCs. They did not provide any factual data, including the need. (#1 on the MZEA) Where's the need? Trucking costs are not listed on the MZEA that I can find. And I haven't seen any data, anywhere, that shows there is a need in Michigan.

Cambridge Twp local government also recognized that their ordinances needed to be strengthened and reviewed because the current Special Use Permit process didn't address mineral extractions. So, they did what other Twps. have already done, and prudently placed a moratorium on the decision about mining extractions and operations, by Board vote. They then hired a consulting firm to look at their ordinances, by Board vote, and are restructuring the ordinances accordingly. Which will come to a Board vote. All of this while they are allowing our citizens to be heard. What a concept.

Sadly, the applicant has now filed a costly lawsuit against Cambridge Twp because they claim they filed correctly the bare minimum information on their application to be granted a SUP. This is clearly not the case, and our Twp was not provided proper information from the applicants, including the need, or data from the applicant with which to approve the SUP. So, the Twp decided to dig deeper and get a lot more information about mining and the MZEA. Plain and simple. Local Government at work.

We also do not see any language in your bills that should be inserted, such as language that the mining companies must pay for local residents and homeowners for wells that may be affected, destroyed, or repairing and replacing wells, at the cost to the companies, silica dust mitigation on and in our homes, wetland restorations, and a steady supply of drinking water, should these tragedies occur.

We also should see strong language inserted that includes joint and several liability. We need to know exactly who is financially backing the mining companies in our communities and that these investors show their faces and not hide behind LLCs that allow them to walk away from reclamation plans or forfeit performance bonds. Who has skin in the game? The companies and investors should be exposed and liable throughout the entire project timeline.

What can the State do?

The State of MI has plenty of State-owned land, where they could easily mine their own land, thus control the mining companies hired and their awarded contracts, hauling routes, and locations near where "the need" may exist. The State can create all the lakes they want and use the grand reclamation projects to promote more public use at the State parks for swimming, boating, fishing, camping at these newly formed lakes. Most likely far away from most folk's actual back yards. The State could easily create enough revenue to help fix the roads much more efficiently and they'd be able to solve their own trucking costs argument. Offer up your own land and see how that works instead of in the middle mid communities where so many are adversely affected.

Every one of you took an oath to protect Michigan and its citizens. Most ran campaigns on protecting our water and air. Do the right thing. Keep mining and industrial operations out of local residential and lake residential areas.

Please see attached letters to learn more about what impact an industrial mine operation would have to the area and surrounding communities here and in The Irish Hills.

Please enter our document into your files upon receipt so that our voices are heard in opposition of the proposed HB 4526-4527-4528.

Respectfully,

Mike Trudeau
Citizens Protect Irish Hills
810.444.9805 cell

www.citizensprotectirishhills.com



March 1, 2023

Cambridge Township Planning Commission
9990 West M50
P.O. Box 417
Onsted, MI 49265

Re: Proposed Sand & Gravel Mine in Cambridge Township, South of US-12 between Allen, Meadow and Kelly Lakes

Dear Members of the Cambridge Township Planning Commission,

This letter is being written to voice Legacy Land Conservancy's support of the call for further studies and due diligence to be conducted in order to better understand the risks posed by the proposed gravel and sand pit operation prior to making any decisions regarding the change of zoning request submitted by SSP Leasing/Cambridge Lake LLC. Specifically, Legacy supports the completion of additional studies to determine whether the proposed gravel and sand pit operation would result in any Very Serious Consequences (VSCs), pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (ZEA).

Legacy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation with the mission of securing a land base to conserve nature, agriculture, fresh water, and recreation for current and future generations in Lenawee, Jackson and Washtenaw Counties. Members of the community shared concerns with us about impacts to the natural communities and fresh water in the Irish Hills region. After reviewing some resources, we believe further information is needed to determine the negative impacts that may occur from the gravel and sand pit mine to occur on this property. Since Legacy's mission is specifically related to conserving important ecosystems, and because we hold a conservation easement in this area, we felt providing support for further studies was well within our responsibility to the area and the people we serve. The footnotes in the letter refer to previous correspondences the commissioners have received.

The Irish Hills area is well-known for its many lakes, streams, and wetlands, and is home to many high-quality natural communities¹, all of which are likely to be threatened by the proposed mining operation. Importantly, "the proposed gravel and sand pit mine is . . . sited where numerous geologic, hydrologic, and ecologic processes intersect to provide numerous irreplaceable public benefits" (Kellum, 2022, p.1). In our opinion, if the proposed mining operation is allowed to proceed, it could have significant negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystems and the invaluable benefits they provide to the surrounding and downstream communities, both human and natural, as well as the values that are central to the Irish Hills community and which draw many visitors to the area.

The additional due diligence inquiries which we are writing to support may reveal that the extraction of aggregate materials that would ensue should you approve the change of zoning request would result in very serious consequences. The numerous natural, economic, and cultural resources that are present

¹ Kellum, S. (2022, December 21). Gravel Pit Opposition Letter.

within the Irish Hills region, and which would likely bear much of the impacts of any potential VSCs, are summarized below.

This region is well-known for its high-quality natural areas, a fact supported by multiple entities within the state that are experts in this field. Indeed, in its 2020 Forest action plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources identified this region as a high-priority area for the protection and management of oak barrens, floodplain forests, as well as prairies and savannahs, and also noted the area as having a Medium-High Frequency of Species that are of High Concern to Forest Health.² Further, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory determined that the proposed mine is located in a region of High biological rarity based on their “database of known sightings of threatened, endangered, or special concern species and high quality natural communities.”³

The Planning Commission itself has also previously recognized the importance of these natural resources, as evidenced by its 2011 adoption of the Cambridge Township Master Plan, which includes among its stated goals to “[e]ncourage the protection and preservation of the Township’s natural resources for the purpose of maintaining the quality of the local environment” (p. 22), “[e]ncourage the preservation of wetlands” (p.22), protect and maintain “[h]igh quality groundwater resources” (p.23), and to “[p]reserve and protect the natural features of the township” (p. 34). While another goal of the Master Plan is to “[e]ncourage the development of industrial used to diversify the local economy and to provide a stable tax base for the Township,” it immediately thereafter specifies that such development should only be carried out “at locations that will allow the quality of the local environment to be maintained” (p. 31).⁴

The proposed mine is also in an area that is critically important to maintaining the health of both ground water and surface water resources in the region. The gravel mine would be immediately adjacent to Meadow and Kelly Lakes within the Wolf Creek sub-watershed of the River Raisin, but because the site is bisected by a watershed boundary, it will also drain into the Iron Creek sub-watershed of the River Raisin, which, among others, is home to Wampers, Timber, and Mud Lakes, all of which lie within or border the Legacy-held Conservation Easement referred to as Camp O’ the Hills^{5,6}. The margins of many of our watersheds — including the boundary that bisects the proposed site — are heavily glaciated and serve as critical groundwater recharge zones, providing essential water volume via seeps and springs to recharge the surrounding lakes, as well as essential filtration to ensure that the water is very clean⁵.

Indeed, an analysis carried out by US Forest Service (USFS) scientists determined that the Wolf Creek watershed is utilized for its surface waters by more than 185,000 direct and downstream consumers and by more than 20,000 consumers for its ground water. In their analysis, the USFS scientists also identified the Wolf Creek watershed as being in the top 14% nation-wide in its Importance to Surface Drinking Water and in the top 25% of the Nation’s watersheds that are most at risk due to Land Use Change.⁷

² Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Resources Division. (2020). *Forest Action Plan 2020 (RC-1027)*. Online at: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/-/media/Project/Websites/dnr/Documents/FRD/Ngt/ForestActionPlan_Forestry_2020.pdf?rev=7753bf4ccceb4b6da4ad12badaa8e5b0&hash=C1C3EC3F7275544D64E8501DE2D4EC62

³ Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). (2022). *Biological Rarity Index*. Online at: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/resources/biological-rarity-index>

⁴ Cambridge Township Planning Commission & Region 2 Planning Commission. (2011). “Cambridge Township Master Plan: Cambridge Township Community Land Use Plan” Online at: <https://www.cambridgetownshipmi.gov/Document%20Center/Cambridge%20Township%20Master%20Plan/Combined%20master%20plan%20july%208%202011.pdf>

⁵ Kellum, S. (2022, December 21). Gravel Pit Opposition Letter.

⁶ Cripe, G. (2022, November 28). Re: SSP Leasing Proposal at the old Brighton Farm.

⁷ Mack, E., Lilja, R., Claggett, S., Sun, G., Caldwell, P. (2022). *Forests to Faucets 2.0: Connecting Forests, Water, and Communities* (Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-99). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington Office. 32 p. <https://doi.org/10.2737/WO-GTR-99>.

Some of the Irish Hill region's valuable cultural and economic resources may also be threatened by the proposed mine. The site is immediately adjacent to Killarney Highway, a state-designated Natural Beauty Road. The *Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act* requires that Cambridge Township "provide for a public hearing before an act that would result in substantial damage to native vegetation in the right-of-way of a natural beauty road or natural beauty street, respectively, is permitted" MCL 324.35704(2).⁸

The proposed use is incompatible with the low-density residential pattern of development in the Irish Hills region and the impact on the surrounding community has the potential to be devastating and severe⁹. Further, while the proposed mining operation would not fit with the existing character of Cambridge Township and the Irish Hills community, the location of the proposed site along a hilly, curvy, and heavily trafficked Michigan heritage route is similarly incompatible, or at least impractical, with heavy industrial use and transport of large, frequent loads of aggregate materials.

It is clear, then, that there is at least the potential for Very Serious Consequences (VSCs) to result from the proposed gravel and sand pit mining operation in a region that is home to a number of natural features that have been well-documented at both the State and National levels, and which provides critically important resources and services for the people that live within and downstream of Cambridge Township. Foremost among the many services provided by this ecologically- and environmentally-rich area is its role as a groundwater recharge zone, which enables it to provide drinking water for many citizens in the surrounding region. In addition to providing fresh, clean drinking-water to thousands, the natural communities that are present in this region, the beauty of which draws many visitors and dollars to Cambridge Township, have been marked as being among the most valuable and of highest-priority for preservation by organizations at the local, state, federal, and international levels.

To better understand the risks and potential Very Serious Consequences that may result from the proposed mining operation, Legacy Land Conservancy is writing to support the call for additional due diligence to be completed as mandated by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. Based on the breadth of possible impacts, Legacy believes that follow-up studies that evaluate the potential environmental, ecological, health, safety, and economic impacts in Cambridge Township and in the surrounding communities that depend on the services provided by the Irish Hills region are necessary.

Sincerely,

Diana L. Kern

Diana Kern
Executive Director
dkern@legacylandconservancy.org
(734) 780-6004

⁸ Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (excerpt) Act 451 of 1994. "Part 357 Natural Beauty Roads". Online at: [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(1xt5gb3eavvmfhednmk4ko22\)\)/mleg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-35704](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(1xt5gb3eavvmfhednmk4ko22))/mleg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-35704)

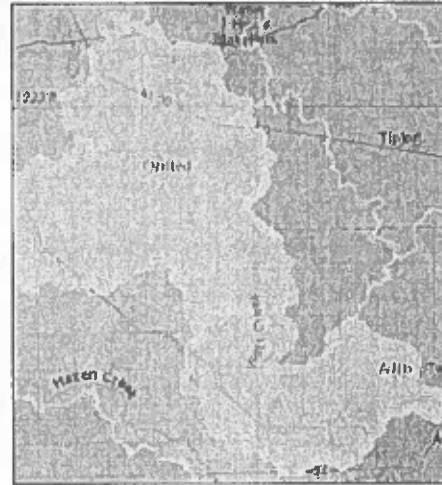
⁹ Cripe, G. (2022, November 28). Re: SSP Leasing Proposal at the Old Brighton Farm.



Forests to Faucet 2.0 Watershed Summary Report

The Forests to Faucet 2.0 Assessment (see link at bottom of page) compares watersheds across the country to show which are most relied upon as sources of drinking water and are potentially threatened.

Watershed Name: Wolf Creek
HUC 12: 041000020204
State(s): MI
Acres: 36556



This report describes the watershed outlined in yellow.

How does this watershed rank?

Importance to Surface Drinking Water Index 86 of 100
Ability to Produce Clean Water Index 23 of 100

Potential threats to this watershed

Wildfire 0 of 100
Insect and Disease 46 of 100
Water Yield Decrease (2010-2090 high emissions) 69 of 100
Land Use Change (2010-2090 high emissions) 75 of 100

Note: All indices have been normalized to allow comparison between watersheds. Values range from 0-100. For example, values between 90-100 are in the top 10% of all watersheds. For additional future scenarios, view the full report on the Forests to Faucet 2.0 website (see link at bottom of page).

Watershed Characteristics

Surface Water

Intakes: 1
Consumers: 21,133
Downstream Consumers: 165,976

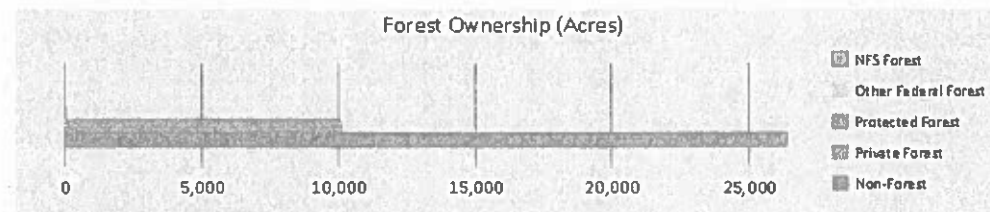
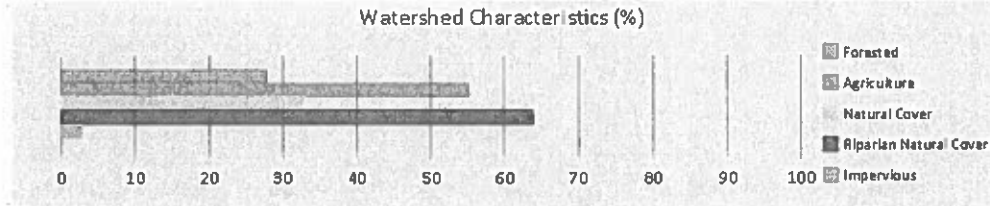
Ground Water

Intakes: 34
Consumers: 20,444
Mean Annual Water Yield in mm (Q): 334

Public Water Supplies within the Watershed

sorted by population served

ADRIAN	https://afrpub.ep.gov/aqa/tw/RpSDWS_FED_REPORTS_PUBLIC_PWS_SEARCH...PWSID-MI000040
ONSTED	https://afrpub.ep.gov/aqa/tw/RpSDWS_FED_REPORTS_PUBLIC_PWS_SEARCH...PWSID-MI000000
RICHLYN MANOR	https://afrpub.ep.gov/aqa/tw/RpSDWS_FED_REPORTS_PUBLIC_PWS_SEARCH...PWSID-MI000008
BROOKDALE ADRIAN	https://afrpub.ep.gov/aqa/tw/RpSDWS_FED_REPORTS_PUBLIC_PWS_SEARCH...PWSID-MI000005
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	https://afrpub.ep.gov/aqa/tw/RpSDWS_FED_REPORTS_PUBLIC_PWS_SEARCH...PWSID-MI000002



TO: Cambridge Township Planning Commission C/O Tom Kissel <kisseltk@yahoo.com>
FROM: Spencer Kellum <spencer.kellum@gmail.com>
DATE: December 21st, 2022

Dear Cambridge Township Planning Commission Members,

This letter is submitted in opposition of the proposed mining project by SSP Leasing/Cambridge Lake LLC in Cambridge Twp, south of US-12 between Allen, Meadow, and Kelly Lakes. Community members have organized in opposition and have published additional online at www.citizensprotectirishhills.com. This letter documents the unmitigated environmental risk and likely Very Serious Consequences¹ that the proposed gravel and sand pit mining operation introduces to Cambridge Township and the communities in the Wolf Creek sub-watershed of the River Raisin of southeast Michigan.

The proposed gravel and sand pit mining operation does little to consider the Very Serious Consequences and negative impacts to the watershed and surrounding uplands - from a science-based position, this region is well-studied and serves an irreplaceable environmental function to citizens locally and state-wide. It is a critically important groundwater recharge zone, providing irreplaceable drinking water and ecosystem services to downstream citizens (e.g., Adrian, MI). It is an ecologically valuable (priceless) landscape, with numerous rare and endangered species and ecosystems distributed across our community of lakes, wetlands, and forests. This region is high-priority area for protection and restoration as documented by numerous regional, state-wide, and international natural resource organizations. This letter provides scientific rationale for the Very Serious Consequences (VSC) that would likely result, should Cambridge Township permit this gravel and sand pit mining operation to proceed.

Introduction

The proposed gravel and sand pit mining operation is sited at an upland site surrounded by numerous lakes. There are 11 lakes within a 1.5-mile radius of the site (Stony, Iron, Wampler's, Timber, Marrs, Sand, Wolf, Allen, Meadow, Kelly, and Killarney) and the site is positioned immediately adjacent to Meadow and Kelly Lakes within the Wolf Creek sub-watershed of the River Raisin.

The proposed gravel and sand pit mining operation would have numerous Very Serious Consequences and negative impacts, which would detract from quality of life, put downward pressure on property values, and threaten the community values that draw people to Cambridge Township and the Irish Hills. Residents and businesses have numerous concerns regarding health and public safety, including human health hazards, waterfowl, and wildlife safety as well as surrounding wetlands, watersheds and water tables that affect wells and aquifers within the area.

The degree of resultant damage and degradation is yet unknown, but the precautionary principle of "do no harm" indicates detailed social and environmental impact assessments must be completed prior to permitting a high-risk operation in a sensitive location within Cambridge Township. The proposed gravel and sand pit mine is poorly sited where numerous geologic, hydrologic, and ecologic processes intersect to provide numerous irreplaceable public benefits. If allowed to proceed, this operation would threaten the drinking water for thousands, significantly degrade the Wolf Creek sub-watershed (and contribute to

¹ The People of the State of Michigan. (2006). "Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. Act 110 of 2006". Online at: <https://www.fractracker.org/a5ej20sjfive/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/mcl-Act-110-of-2006.pdf>

ongoing degradation of the River Raisin and western Lake Erie), destroy local habitats and ecosystems, and damage the community values that draw people to Cambridge Township and the Irish Hills.

Community Background

The Irish Hills region is the remaining interlobate headwater priority landscape of natural cover type in southeast Michigan – forests of oak-hickory, oak-pine, and white-red-jack pine. Importantly, the *2020 Michigan Forest Action Plan*² identifies this region as a high-priority area for protection and restoration of floodplain forests, oak barrens, prairies, and savannas – this region is also notable for Frequency of Species that are of High Concern to Forest Health. Furthermore, Michigan State University and Michigan Natural Features Inventory maintain the state-wide *Biological Rarity Index* which assigns a biological rarity value to landscapes based on “known sightings of threatened, endangered, or special concern species and high-quality natural communities”³. The proposed site is located within a region of ‘High’ biological rarity value – indicating a high likelihood that protected species and ecosystems exist on-site. The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation organization, has prioritized this region for protection and restoration⁴. From a statewide perspective, this indicates that Cambridge Township and the Irish Hills are home to unique, high-quality, and ecologically irreplaceable habitats and species.

Additionally, Cambridge Township and the Irish Hills are well-known for the many lakes, streams, and wetlands situated here. While this is common knowledge, the *2020 Michigan Forest Action Plan* clearly supports this community understanding – Water Quality, Quantity, and Native Vegetation are all identified as high-priority for protection and restoration⁵. Importantly, Lenawee County is estimated to have lost 84% of vegetated wetlands to development and agricultural from pre-European time to 2005 (199,432 pre-European vegetated wetland acres versus 31,278 vegetated wetland acres in 2005).⁶ This proposed gravel and sand pit mine threatens the on-site wetlands situated along the southern edge of the site, along the channel connecting Meadow to Kelly Lake. Additionally, Lenawee County has numerous documented threatened and endangered species: 23 state endangered, 36 state threatened, 72 state special concern, of which 8 of these species are federally listed endangered or threatened⁷. A proper site survey and environmental assessment to determine immediate impact to rare species and habitats is essential. Furthermore, the regional impacts of a gravel and sand pit mining operation impose unjustified risk onto residents and downstream communities.

Water quality in a river or lake is largely driven by the immediate surroundings – this is the watershed or catchment basin. When a watershed is converted from wetlands, forests and farms into gravel pits, housing developments and concrete, surface water quality degrades as the catchment basin loses the filtering effect of wetlands, vegetated landcover, and upland gravel and sand hills. The distribution and density of plant vegetation strongly influences the ability of rainwater to infiltrate the soil and recharge

² Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Resources Division. (2020). “Forest Action Plan 2020”. Online at: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/-/media/Project/Websites/dnr/Documents/FRD/Mgt/ForestActionPlan_Forestry_2020.pdf?rev=7753bf4ccceb4b6da4adf2badaa8c5b0&hash=C1C3EC3F7275544D64E8501DE2D4EC62

³ Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). (2022). “Biological Rarity Index”. Online at: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/resources/biological-rarity-index>

⁴ Nature Conservancy, The (TNC). (2003). “The North Central Tillplain Ecoregion: A Conservation Plan”.

⁵ Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Forest Resources Division. (2020). “Forest Action Plan 2020”. Online at: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/-/media/Project/Websites/dnr/Documents/FRD/Mgt/ForestActionPlan_Forestry_2020.pdf?rev=7753bf4ccceb4b6da4adf2badaa8c5b0&hash=C1C3EC3F7275544D64E8501DE2D4EC62

⁶ Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (2015). “Status and Trends of Michigan’s Wetlands Pre-European Settlement to 2005”. Online at: <https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/WRD/Wetlands/Status-Trends-of-Michigans-Wetlands-PreEuropean-Settlement-to-2005.pdf?rev=30194c230acd42d98c2d92624ab19a6c>

⁷ Michigan Natural Features Inventory (current). “County Element Data”. Online at: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/resources/county-element-data>

lakes, streams, and groundwater aquifers. Importantly, Cambridge Township in its entirety is within the Forest Legacy Area – Southern Michigan Recharge Area⁸ - meaning the Irish Hills region serves a critical function to allow water to enter Michigan’s groundwater aquifers via ecologically significant habitats and, ultimately, to provide clean potable water to numerous communities in southeast Michigan. As noted in the *2017 Landscape Forest Stewardship Plan: Lenawee, Jackson, and Hillsdale Counties, Michigan*, the need “to encourage and inspire people to actively manage their forests to realize benefits”⁹ is particularly applicable in this groundwater recharge landscape.

Local Context

Cambridge Township’s Master Plan provides residents, businesses, and outside actors with guidance and zoning rules to protect property and shape development across the community. Cambridge Township’s published plan outlines several important protections for natural resources and the environment. These goals include:

- “Encourage the protection and preservation of the Township’s natural resources for the purpose of maintaining the quality of the local environment.” (Page 22)
- “Encourage the preservation of wetlands.” (Page 22)
- “High quality groundwater resources.” (Page 23)
- “Preserve and protect the natural features of the Township.” (Page 34)

If permitted to proceed, the standards for determining Very Serious Consequences set forth in *Silva v Ada Township*, 416 Mich 153 (1982)¹⁰ shall be applied and considered, including the following (directly quoted from Wilcynski 2022¹¹):

- The relationship of extraction and associated activities with existing land uses.
- The impact on existing land uses in the vicinity of the property.
- The impact on property values in the vicinity of the property and along the proposed hauling route serving the property, based on credible evidence.
- The impact on pedestrian and traffic safety in the vicinity of the property and along the proposed hauling route serving the property.
- The impact on other identifiable health, safety, and welfare interests in the local unit of government.
- The overall public interest in the extraction of the specific natural resources on the property.

Cambridge Township has a right and duty to protect citizens and the environment from the Very Serious Consequences that would result from SSP Leasing/Cambridge Lake LLC’s proposal. Local township planning exists to guide development in a well-considered and responsible manner – the proposed sand and gravel pit mining operation repeatedly violates both local use planning and the standards set forth in *Silva v Ada Township*, 416 Mich 153 (1982).

The current Cambridge Township Master Plan map¹² clearly identifies the proposed gravel and sand pit mine site as AG-1 Agricultural District and is immediately surrounded with a zoned RL-1 Lake

⁸ Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). (2020). “Forest Legacy: Program helps keep environmentally important forests as forests – forever”. Online at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/36ba6b7a31c445ab90a8f6a8721f25c0>

⁹ Stewardship Network. The. (2017). “Landscape Stewardship Plan: Jackson, Hillsdale & Lenawee Counties, Michigan. Online at: https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/LandscapeStewardshipPlans/GR_TSN_Final.pdf

¹⁰ Michigan Supreme Court. (1982). *Silva v. Ada Twp.* Online at: <https://law.justia.com/cases/michigan/supreme-court/1982/65815-4.html>

¹¹ Wilcynski, Mike. (2022). “Permitting Aggregate Mines in Michigan Poses Very Serious Consequences”. Online at: <https://www.fractracker.org/2022/03/permitting-aggregate-mines-in-michigan-poses-very-serious-consequences/>

¹² Cambridge Township, Lenawee County, Michigan. (2013). “Zoning Map”. Online at: <https://webgen1files.revize.com/cambridgetwpmi/Document%20Center/Zoning/zoning%20map%20cambridge%20twp.pdf>

Residential District. The site is also immediately adjacent to Killarney Highway, a state-designated Natural Beauty Road. Under *Part 357, Natural Beauty Roads, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, PA 451, as amended*, Cambridge Township shall “provide for a public hearing before an act that would result in substantial damage to native vegetation in the right-of-way of a natural beauty road or natural beauty street, respectively, is permitted” (Page 2)¹³. Under *Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended*, a person cannot without a permit “dredge, remove, or permit the removal of soils or minerals”¹⁴. Furthermore, the construction of an inland lake requires permit under the authority of *Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended* and *Federal Clean Water Act, Section 404*. The proposed gravel and sand pit mining operation is clearly inconsistent with current zoning, designations, and existing use – while also disregarding the Township’s own current master plan and introducing Very Serious Consequences and unnecessary risks to the local community and environment.

To adequately understand and assess risk related to resultant Very Serious Consequences, several follow-up studies need to be completed at the applicant’s expense. These include: 1) a detailed hydrogeologic study to understand consequences to water quality and watershed health; 2) a long-term safety assessment of US-12 traffic and details of the proposed truck hauling route; 3) an economic analysis to estimate losses in real property value and calculate decrease in local tax revenue (immediately adjacent to site, within watershed, and along trucking routes); 4) an assessment to demonstrate need for sand and gravel pit mine material in the local economy; 5) a detailed onsite geologic study documenting existence and value of aggregate material; 6) a detailed onsite threatened and endangered species survey; 7) a detailed onsite assessment delineating wetlands, assessing function, and mitigation plan; 8) an assessment of the health, safety and welfare consequences to local residents, visitors, and participants in the tourist economy. This list is certainly not exhaustive and are, at a minimum, what is essential to adequately understand and assess the resultant Very Serious Consequences related to the proposed sand and gravel pit mine operation.

Thank you for considering this information and for efforts to protect the environment and community. Additional information and detail can be provided as requested.

Regards,

Spencer Kellum

Spencer Kellum is an environmental scientist and sustainability consultant working with non-profit, community, and corporate clients on solutions to stabilize the unfolding climate and biodiversity crisis. He currently practices professionally with a conservation consultancy based in the UK, where he focuses on corporate biodiversity strategy and local nature recovery initiatives. He grew up in the Irish Hills, is a private forest landowner in Cambridge Township, and returns regularly to support active management of several nature reserves in the Great Lakes. His work contributes to several environmental and sustainability initiatives across Europe, North America, and Africa.

Spencer holds a B.S. in environmental science (Saint Louis University) and M.S. in geography (Eastern Michigan University) and currently serves on the board of directors of the Raisin Valley Land Trust. He is also a specialist advisor to Lenawee Intermediate School District’s Center for Sustainability, The Stewardship Network, Big Basswood Lake Association, and several landowner families. More information available at www.spencerkellum.net

¹³ Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (excerpt) Act 451 of 1994. (1994) “Part 357 Natural Beauty Roads”. Online at: <http://www.michigandnr.com/FTP/forestry/Forest%20Certification%20Audit%20Documents%202015/Forest%20Certification%20Auditor%20Master%20CD%20File/M1%20Law%20Related%20to%20Forest%20Management/Part%20357%20Natural%20Beauty%20Roads.pdf>

¹⁴ Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. (2022). “Wetland Permits”. Online at: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/wetlands/permits>

Dear Representative:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to HB 4526, HB 4527 and HB 4528. These bills strip local communities of their right to discuss, debate, and make decisions over issues that directly impact their people, and instead, grant this power to the State, which is safely insulated from any negative impact.

The communities' residents are in the best position to understand their needs and the impact that these decisions will have on their community, and they will suffer the consequences if proper safeguards are not put in place. As such, local communities should be responsible for evaluating the requests and ensuring that any harm is properly mitigated. Wresting that right away and placing it with people who have no regard for the local community members, who must bear the burden of the decision, is irresponsible and immoral.

Local decisionmakers are already held to account through existing laws and regulations to ensure they do not exceed the bounds of their authority. To the extent there are disputes between the local decisionmakers and the outside interests, there are procedures in place through the court system to resolve the matter. To take control away from those directly affected by these decisions and place it in the hands of outside interests is unconscionable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Amy Costello
470 Pentecost Hwy
Onsted, MI. 49265

Molly Wingrove

From: Laurie Fromhart <bridgewaterwpsupervisor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Felicia Brabec
Cc: Rep. Tyrone Carter (District 1); Rep. Pat Outman (District 91); Rep. Angela Witwer (District 76); Molly Wingrove
Subject: House Bills 4526, 4527 & 4528
Attachments: Resolution 2023-07.pdf

Representative Brabec,

Please find attached a resolution in opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 as adopted by the Bridgewater Township Board of Trustees at our regular meeting on June 1st.

Our township has been directly impacted by sand and gravel mining and has been very successful regulating these operations at the local level where local control in the permitting process should remain. The proposed bills would also place an undue burden on EGLE that does not have adequate resources to effectively monitor and enforce these types of operations.

We strongly urge you to vote NO in opposition to these bills.

Regards,

Laurie Fromhart
Bridgewater Township Supervisor
10990 Clinton Rd
Manchester, MI 48158
Cell: 734.223.2766

**BRIDEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILLS 4526, 4527 AND 4528
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-07**

WHEREAS, the Michigan House is considering House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 that would remove local government's oversight capability, further preempting Townships from placing regulations on any sand and gravel mining operation regardless of where they are located or the impact to nearby residents; and

WHEREAS, HB 4526, 4527 and 4528 would effectively erase local control over the operation and siting of sand and gravel mines, including noise, hours of operation, dust control and haul routes; and

WHEREAS, HB 4526, 4527 and 4528 would vacate previous judicial and administration opinions related to all mining permit applications including those previously submitted to a local unit of government; and

WHEREAS, HB 4526, 4527 and 4528 removes the right of referendum by impacted residents; and

WHEREAS, HB 4526, 4527 and 4528 artificially limits required financial assurances at levels that do not provide for proper protections for amounts needed for land reclamation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bridgewater Township Board of Trustees hereby opposes House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528, and that Townships must maintain their already limited authority on mining operations and are best equipped to balance the needs of their community.

Motion made by Trustee McQueer and seconded by Trustee Oliver to adopt the above Resolution.

Upon roll-call vote, the following members voted:

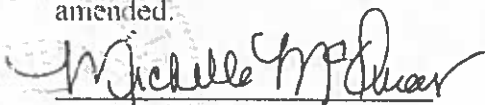
AYE: Ahrens, Faust, Fromhart, McQueer, Oliver
NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Supervisor declared Resolution Number 2023-07 in Opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 duly adopted.

Certification:

I, Michelle McQueer, the undersigned Clerk of the Township of Bridgewater, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Township of Bridgewater, held on June 1, 2023, the original of which is on file in my office, and that notice of such meeting was given, and the meeting was conducted, pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Michigan Public acts of 1976, as amended.



Michelle McQueer
Bridgewater Township Clerk

Molly Wingrove

From: Kim Keesler <kkeesler@almontvillage.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 9:17 PM
To: Molly Wingrove; 'cartertyrone@house.mi.gov'; Rep. Mike Mueller (District 72); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Joseph A. Aragona (District 60); Rep. Matthew Bierlein (District 97); 'JerryNeyerr@house.mi.gov'; Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 39); Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Cynthia Neeley (District 70); Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Stephanie Young (District 16); Rep. Kristian C. Grant (District 82); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Will Snyder (District 87); Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr. (District 32)
Cc: Rep. Jaime Greene (District 65); Steve Schneider; David Trent
Subject: Village of Almont - Resolution No. 23-06-08 Opposition to House Bills 4526-4528
Attachments: Resolution No. 23-06-08 Opposition to House Bills 4526-4528.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Honorable Regulatory Reform Committee Members,

Attached, please find the Village of Almont's resolution opposing house bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 that was passed at tonight's regular council meeting.

Thank you,

Kim Keesler
Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Almont
Phone: (810) 798-8528
Fax: (810) 798-3397
www.almontmichigan.gov

This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission.

**VILLAGE OF ALMONT
RESOLUTION NO. 23-06-08**

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILLS 4526, 4527, AND 4528

At a regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Almont, Lapeer County, Michigan, held on June 6, 2023.

PRESENT: Dyke, Calka, Feldman, Glasser, Kuligowski, Steffler, Schneider

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by President Pro-Tem Dyke and seconded by Councilmember Calka:

WHEREAS, House Bill 4526, which would amend criminal procedure and sentencing guidelines for violation of intentional false statement in a mining permit application or report; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 4527, which would amend the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act declaring in Sec. 205 that sand and gravel is not a natural resource; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 4528, would create a new Part 639 in the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) specifically for sand and gravel mining; and

WHEREAS, the Almont Village Council is deeply concerned about the safety and welfare of the residents and their community;

WHEREAS, the proposed bills prohibit municipalities and affected residents or businesses from requesting any permit modifications, silencing the community on issues impacting their daily lives and livelihood, but allows EGLE to grant modifications requested by the mine operator only; and

WHEREAS, these bills allow 70-foot-high aggregate stockpiles just 50 feet from property lines, which is an obvious impact on neighboring property owners; and

WHEREAS, these bills artificially limit required financial assurances at levels that do not provide for proper protections for amounts needed for land reclamation; and

WHEREAS, these bills codify operation hours for activities such as truck loading, blasting and crushing to begin by at least 6 a.m. six days per week, which allows for hours beyond that time for state or county contract; and

WHEREAS, these bills limit local government and resident input only through public comment periods at the state level (EGLE) and removes any right of referendum by impacted residents; and

WHEREAS, these bills proscribe noise levels required for worker safety hearing protection only and weighted over eight hours with no considerations for impact of noise to nearby homes, businesses, schools and property; and

WHEREAS, these bills vacate previous judicial and administration opinions related to all mining permit applications, including those previously submitted to a local unit of government.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Council urges the Michigan House of Representatives to oppose House Bills 4526, 4527, and 4528 to stop the erosion of local authority and preempt the Village of Almont's ability to best serve our residents and community.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

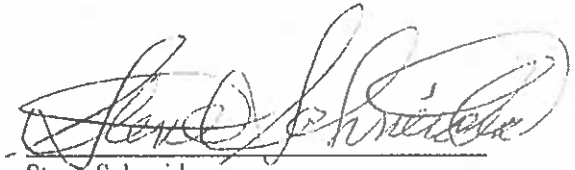
YEAS:	Dyke, Feldman, Glasser, Kuligowski, Calka, Schneider
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Steffler
ABSENT:	None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
 COUNTY OF LAPEER)

I, Kimberly J. Keesler, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Village of Almont, Lapeer County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Village Council of said Village held on June 6, 2023, the original of which resolution is on file in my office and is available to the public. I further certify that notice of said meeting was given in accordance with the open meetings act.



 Kimberly J. Keesler
 Almont Village Clerk/Treasurer



 Steve Schneider
 Village President

Molly Wingrove

From: Lisa Warner <lwarner@jaquarealtors.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Molly Wingrove
Subject: TO SEE IT IS TO BELIEVE IT DELTON MICHIGAN BARRY COUNTY, MI
Attachments: INPACT IN THE DELTON COMMUNITY PROPOSED GRAVEL MINING.pdf

Attached is just the start of what Michigan Materials, and HIGH GRADE, has obtained. My last calculation was over **400 acres** in our area that has been purchased.

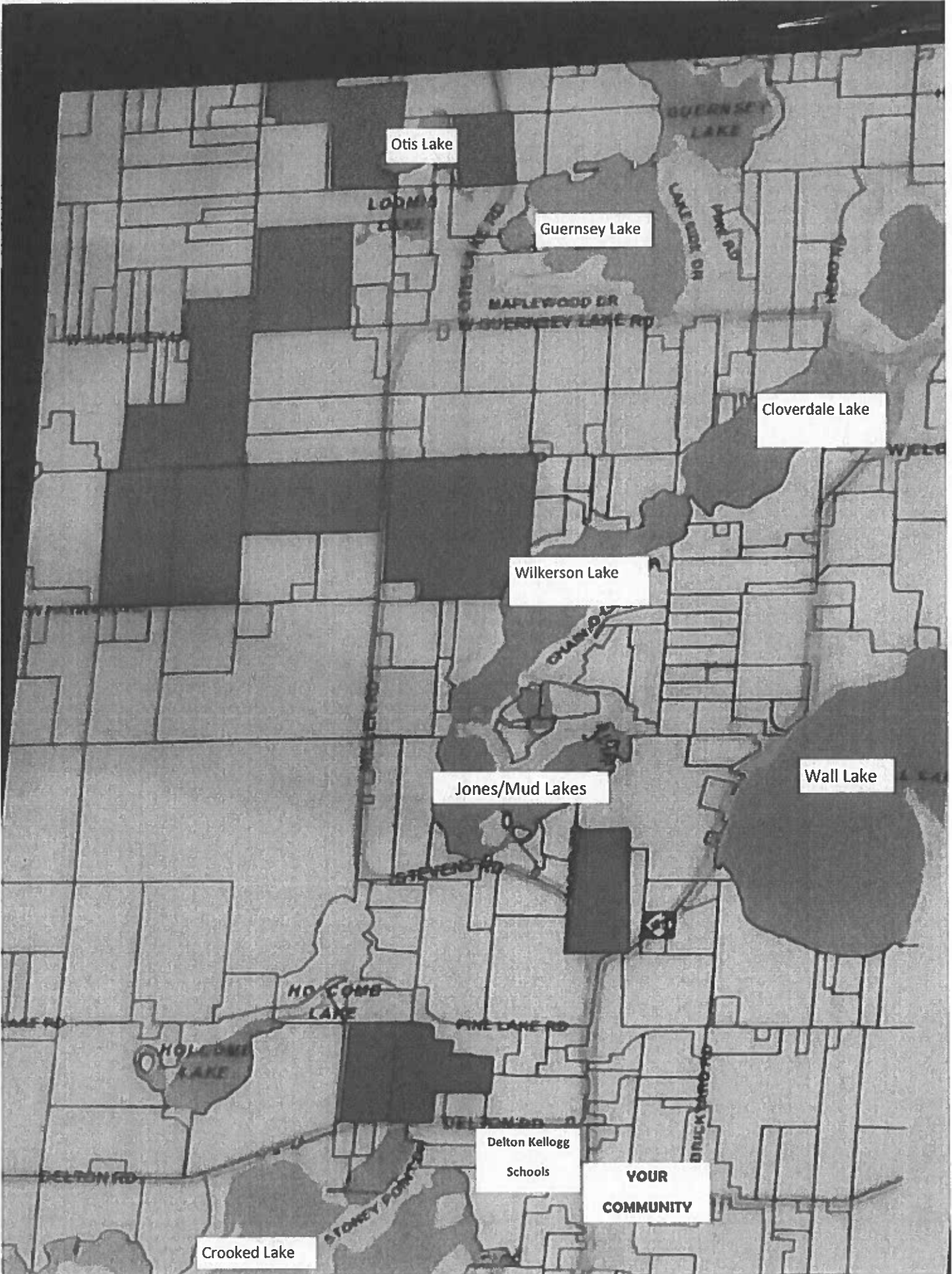
You don't think we have the choice, any more? You think the government has control on how we want to protect our area of this horrible undertaking and disaster to our area.

This is our home. We work hard to maintain what we barely can afford with the FEDs controlling the livelihood of the economy. NOW you all want to approve these bills and destroy our protected wetlands, lakes and if you really take the time....one pit is proposed across from our school.

The found fact of keeping these pits at a healthy distance from residential dwelling should be agreed on. These bills should not even be proposed. The government control is killing us, it is why so many people are angry. I is not justified where our jussions can't help us voting the good or bad of our community. Just let us live our lives in a peaceful manner without you constantly interfering of what you think is right. Because these bills have wrong....written all over them.

By the way, ask your people....why don't we just put them in our backyard?
Thank you for listening to our concerns.

L Warner, Barry County, MI.



Otis Lake

Guernsey Lake

Cloverdale Lake

Wilkerson Lake

Jones/Mud Lakes

Wall Lake

Crooked Lake

Delton Kellogg
Schools

**YOUR
COMMUNITY**