TESTIMONY OF

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BEFORE THE

Economic Competitiveness Committee
Re. House Bill No. 4511: Crypto Bill of Rights

November 11, 2025

Thank you Chair Hoadley, Majority Vice Chair Bohnak, Minority Vice Chair Grant, and members of the Committee for the honor of the invitation to provide testimony on House Bill 4511. I appreciate the Committee's dedication to strengthening Michigan's competitiveness and ensuring our state remains a place where digital-economy builders and businesses can thrive. My hope is that my perspective is helpful as the Committee considers how HB 4511 can provide clarity for consumers, builders, and businesses while preserving the safeguards already embedded in Michigan law.

My professional background spans work across software engineering, financial technology, and the digital-asset sector. After graduating from the University of Michigan, I began my career as a software engineer in the automotive industry before moving into blockchain and decentralized finance, where I spent eight years as CTO of a DeFi company during a period of rapid technological change. This work gave me practical insight into how blockchain systems function and the economic considerations that shape their use.

In Michigan, my focus is on strengthening the state's digital-asset ecosystem. I founded the Detroit Blockchain Collective, a leading regional hub that brings together builders, entrepreneurs, educators, and industry professionals to advance education, collaboration, and innovation in emerging

technology. I also serve as the Michigan President for Stand With Crypto, where I represent nearly 55,000 Stand With Crypto advocates in our state, and more than 1.2 million Michiganders who own cryptocurrency. These roles have shown me how clear, well-crafted policy can support innovation while giving residents and businesses the certainty they need to participate confidently. For those reasons, the policy framework established in House Bill 4511 is especially important.

House Bill 4511 protects the right of Michiganders to hold and use digital assets, enables lawful peer-to-peer payments without extra charges, and provides clear, uniform rules that support jobs and innovation while keeping all criminal and consumer protection laws fully in force.

In my work with software developers, entrepreneurs, and university students, I have seen how clear rules make the difference between building in Michigan or going to neighboring states like Ohio. Today, Michigan law is silent about the most basic parts of blockchain and digital assets, such as the right to hold a digital asset, build on blockchain, or pay for a lawful good with a digital asset like Bitcoin. By establishing clear statutory protections, House Bill 4511 directly addresses these gaps and positions Michigan to lead in this technology.

I believe the three most important provisions in this bill are as follows:
Foremost, it protects the right to hold digital assets such as Bitcoin or stablecoins. This provides for clear digital property rights and to own your own digital assets like you would keep cash in your wallets. This protection is expressly subject to the Michigan penal code, so fraud and other crimes remain fully prohibited.

Additionally, this bill empowers Michiganders and small businesses to accept digital assets as a method of payment. The bill prohibits any additional tax, withholding, assessment, or charge that is based solely on using a digital asset as the method of payment. It does not change standard taxes that would otherwise apply if the same transaction took place in United States legal tender. Although this may sound new to some, many large payment companies such as PayPal and Mastercard are utilizing stablecoins, or digital assets backed by dollars, to make payments faster and cheaper today. Other companies like Square are allowing millions of small businesses to elect to receive payment in Bitcoin.

Finally, it allows open participation and software development in blockchain networks. The bill prevents government prohibitions on three basic activities: running a node, also known as a specialized computer, to connect to a blockchain protocol; transferring digital assets on a blockchain protocol; and participating in staking on a blockchain protocol, also known as making sure the results on a blockchain are valid. These are key basic protections that ensure blockchains remain useful to Michiganders and that residents can benefit from participating in them.

I have seen firsthand how Michiganders use blockchain to build businesses, create jobs, and strengthen communities. Our universities are graduating talent that wants to stay here if the rules are clear. House Bill 4511 is balanced and puts Michiganders first.

I respectfully ask for a yes vote to advance the bill and keep Michigan competitive for builders, students, and small businesses who want to build the future of blockchain here.

Thank you.