CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
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Office of Mayor Christopher Taylor

January 30, 2026

Michigan House Economic Competitiveness Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Support for House Bill 5031 (HB5031)

Dear Members of the House Committee on Economic Competitiveness:

On behalf of the Ann Arbor community, I am writing to express strong support for **House Bill 5031**, which would authorize the **renewal and continuation of Technology Improvement Financing (TIF) through Michigan's SmartZone program**. This legislation is critically important to communities like Ann Arbor that are actively working to foster innovation, support entrepreneurs, and grow high-wage, knowledge-based jobs.

For more than two decades, SmartZones have played a vital role in strengthening Michigan's innovation economy. Through the strategic use of TIF revenues, SmartZones have enabled investments in business acceleration services, talent development, commercialization support, and infrastructure necessary to help startups and second-stage companies succeed. The results are clear: stronger local economies, increased private investment, and expanded opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Ann Arbor's participation in the SmartZone program has been an important component of regional economic development efforts in Washtenaw County. Renewal of SmartZone TIF authority through HB 5031 would allow Ann Arbor to continue leveraging this proven tool to support entrepreneurship, attract and retain innovative companies, and collaborate with regional partners to drive inclusive economic growth.

Ann Arbor SPARK has witnessed how SmartZone resources strengthen the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem by aligning local, regional, and state-level efforts. Continued SmartZone funding will ensure that communities like Ann Arbor remain competitive, resilient, and well-positioned to support emerging industries and technologies.

We respectfully support HB 5031 and advocate for its passage. Ann Arbor SPARK stands ready to continue partnering with the City of Ann Arbor and other stakeholders to maximize the impact of SmartZone investments for residents, businesses, and the regional economy.

Thank you for your leadership and your ongoing commitment to economic development in Ann Arbor. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or support.

Sincerely,



Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor