Tuesday February 10, 2026

Michigan House Economic Competitiveness Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Members of the Michigan House Economic Competitiveness Committee,

I am writing to express our support for **House Bill 5031** on behalf of VERN AI, the Virtual Emotion Resource Network, a technology company building emotionally intelligent AI products in the Lansing region.

VERN AI develops systems that help artificial intelligence better understand and respond to human emotion. We work across healthcare, customer experience, and education, where emotional context is often as important as technical performance.

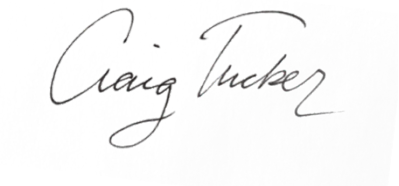
As an early-stage company working in a rapidly evolving field, regional support has been essential in helping us move from initial development to engaging real customers and partners. **Through support from the East Lansing / Lansing Regional SmartZone, including early funding and the opportunity to represent the Lansing region at SXSW in 2025, we were able to explore new markets, raise our visibility, and build relationships beyond our immediate network.**

From our perspective as founders, programs like these create space to take thoughtful risks and bring emerging technologies into real world use. They help ensure that companies working at the edge of innovation can stay focused on building products, forming partnerships, and growing their teams here in Michigan.

Renewing SmartZone support through House Bill 5031 helps maintain that environment. It signals that Michigan is committed to supporting companies that are not only building new technology, but shaping how people experience and trust it.

We strongly encourage your support of House Bill 5031 and for the continued investment in the regional systems that help innovative companies grow, reach new markets, and contribute to Michigan's future.

Sincerely,



Craig Tucker
CEO
VERN AI
www.vernai.com