INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER
IRENE CAHILL, DISTRICT #12

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Members of the Michigan House Economic Competitiveness Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5031, legislation that is critical to the continued success and long-term sustainability of Michigan's SmartZone program and the regional innovation ecosystems it supports.

In Ingham County, tax increment capture provides a locally based, accountable way to reinvest resources into programs, partnerships, and infrastructure that support entrepreneurs, researchers, and high technology businesses, while strengthening workforce pathways and expanding access to opportunity for people across our entire region.

Most importantly, this work supports people across Ingham County from students and first time entrepreneurs to small business owners, skilled workers, and families who benefit from a stronger local economy, greater access to opportunity, and the creation of high quality jobs close to home.

House Bill 5031's provision allowing existing SmartZones to extend their tax increment financing authority for an additional 15 years ensures that communities like ours can continue to operate with stability and long-term planning certainty. This framework enables responsible reinvestment, strong public and private partnerships, and sustained support for companies and talent at critical stages of development.

The benefits of the SmartZone program extend well beyond municipal boundaries. Ingham County's regional economy is deeply interconnected with neighboring communities, institutions, and employers. Continued investment through the SmartZone strengthens our ability to compete for talent, research commercialization opportunities, and business attraction at both the state and national levels, reinforcing Michigan's overall economic competitiveness.

I appreciate that House Bill 5031 maintains clear definitions, accountability measures, and a strong public purpose framework to ensure that tax increment financing is used responsibly and transparently to deliver meaningful public benefit.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and support of House Bill 5031. Its passage will help ensure that our region, and the state as a whole, can continue building a strong, resilient, and innovation led economy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Irene Cahill
Ingham County Commissioner
Commissioner District 12

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Irene Cahill,
Ingham County Commissioner
District 12