STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

VELOCITY

INCUBATOR • ACCELERATOR • COWORKING

January 5, 2026

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Support for Proposed SmartZone Extension Legislation

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of Velocity, the MEDC-designated SmartZone serving Macomb County, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed legislation (Rep. Robinson - HB 5031) to extend Michigan's SmartZone program. Passage of this legislation is critical to sustaining and growing Michigan's innovation economy and ensuring that entrepreneurs and high-growth companies across the state continue to have access to the resources they need to succeed.

SmartZones serve as a cornerstone of Michigan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. They provide early-stage and scaling businesses with vital coaching, access to capital, connections to expert consulting services, and linkages to regional and statewide ecosystem partners. For many entrepreneurs—particularly those in advanced manufacturing, defense, mobility, and emerging technologies—these resources would otherwise be difficult or impossible to access without the SmartZone framework.

In Macomb County, Velocity has demonstrated the tangible economic impact of the SmartZone model. In 2024 alone, Velocity supported hundreds of entrepreneurs and small businesses through structured incubator and accelerator programming, technical assistance, mentorship, and investor readiness initiatives. These efforts directly contributed to company formation, job creation, and commercialization activity throughout the county. More information about our programs and outcomes can be found at **www.mivelocity.com**.

Looking ahead, the importance of SmartZone continuity becomes even clearer. In 2025, companies that Velocity has worked with are projected to attract more than **$30 million in private and public investment** into Macomb County. This level of capital attraction is not accidental—it is the result of sustained, coordinated support made possible through the SmartZone designation and its associated resources.

Extending the SmartZone program provides the stability necessary for long-term planning, public-private partnerships, and investor confidence. Without an extension, Michigan risks disrupting proven economic development infrastructure at a time when competition for talent, capital, and innovation is increasing nationally and globally.

We respectfully urge you to support and pass the proposed SmartZone extension legislation. Doing so will reaffirm Michigan's commitment to entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive economic growth—ensuring communities like Macomb County can continue to generate jobs, attract investment, and support the next generation of Michigan-based companies.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Michigan's innovation economy. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide additional information or serve as a resource.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Macpherson
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CC:
Rep. Mike Hoadley, Chair of Economic Competitiveness
Rep. Karl Bohnak, Vice Chair of Economic Competitiveness

Macomb Delegation:
Rep. Ron Robinson
Rep. Joseph Aragona
Rep. Jay DeBoyer
Rep. Kimberly Edwards
Rep. Jaime Greene
Rep. Thomas Kuhn
Rep. Mike McFall
Rep. Donavan McKinney
Rep. Denise Mentzer
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