City of Ypsilanti

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The City of Ypsilanti, I am writing to express our 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 the City of Ypsilanti 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 the 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.

Ypsilanti'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 Ypsilanti 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 seen firsthand how SmartZone resources strengthen the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem by aligning local, regional, and state-level efforts. Continued SmartZone funding will ensure that communities like Ypsilanti 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 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 Ypsilanti. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or support.

Sincerely,

Mayor Nicole Brown
City of Ypsilanti

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