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COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING

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May 16, 2017

**NOTICE AND AGENDA  
FOR  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MAY 16, 2017**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED** that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a Committee of the Whole meeting on **Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.** for the purpose of:

*Projected Time for Presentation & Discussion*

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|-----|---|------------------|
| 1.  | Introduction of Deputy County Administrators – <i>Ms. Tracie Moored</i>   | 3:00 – 3:05 p.m. |
| 2.  | Review of Transfers and Disbursements (Item O.) – <i>Ms. Amanda Morse</i> | 3:05 – 3:10 p.m. |
| 3.  | Farmland Preservation Presentation – <i>Ms. Pat Crowley</i>               | 3:10 – 3:20 p.m. |
| 4.  | Vicksburg Mill (Item Q.) -  | 3:20 – 3:30 p.m. |
| 5.  | Welcoming Michigan Presentation – <i>Commissioner Wordelman</i>           | 3:30 – 3:40 p.m. |
| 6.  | Enbridge Corporation Presentation – <i>Commissioner Gisler</i>            | 3:40 – 4:00 p.m. |
| 7.  | Enbridge Pipeline 5 Resolution (Item S.) – <i>Commissioner Quinn</i>      | 4:00 – 4:15 p.m. |
| 8.  | Kalamazoo County Pride Month Resolution – <i>Commissioner Hall</i>        | 4:15 – 4:20 p.m. |
| 9.  | Any other items   | 4:20 – 5:00 p.m. |
|     | a. Resolutions  |                  |
| 10. | Executive Session Adjournment – no later than 6 p.m.                      | 5:00 – 5:15 p.m. |

The meeting will be held in the County Administration Building, 201 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan, in Room 207A. Questions regarding the meeting may be addressed to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, 201 West Kalamazoo Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, or by telephoning (269) 384-8111.

*Dina Sutton*

Dina Sutton  
Administrator's Executive Coordinator

MAY 10, 2017

MEETINGS OF THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE OPEN TO ALL WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, SEX, COLOR, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, MARITAL STATUS, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR DISABILITY. KALAMAZOO COUNTY WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY REASONABLE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES, SUCH AS SIGNERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED AND AUDIO TAPES OF PRINTED MATERIALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING/HEARING, TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE MEETING/HEARING UPON FOUR (4) BUSINESS DAYS' NOTICE TO THE COUNTY. INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES SHOULD CONTACT THE COUNTY BY WRITING OR CALLING:

Dina Sutton  
Administrator's Executive Coordinator  
KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007  
TELEPHONE: (269)384-8111

**COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO  
RECOMMENDED TRANSFERS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
MAY 16, 2017**

**DISBURSEMENTS**

**CLAIMS**

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Claims	\$1,558,146.44
Claims Requiring Disclosure:	\$0.00
<b>Total Current Claims:</b>	<b>\$1,558,146.44</b>

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

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Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health	\$152,659.00
1st Quarter 2017 Alcohol Tax Collection	
<b>Total Release of Funds:</b>	<b>\$152,659.00</b>

**TRANSFERS**

<b>DEPARTMENT/ACCOUNT</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>
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**BOARD AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

**PROPOSED FOR BOARD MEETING OF:** May 16, 2017

**DEPARTMENT(S):** Office of the Drain Commissioner, the County Planning Department and Michigan State University Extension.

**PREPARED BY:** Pat Crowley, Lotta Jarnefelt, and Julie Pioch

**SUBJECT:** Kalamazoo County Farmland Preservation Ordinance (FPO)

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:**

Presentation of proposal to adopt Farmland Preservation Ordinance in Kalamazoo County.

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTION (dollar amount, purpose):**

Initial presentation to present proposal, seek input, and answer questions.

**TIME FRAME OF ACTION:**

Adoption contingent on BOC support.

**FUNDING SOURCE IF REQUIRED (Federal, State, or Local):**

None initially. If ordinance is passed, a FPO Board will be formed. It will be the responsibility of the FPO Board to determine funding sources.

**PERSONNEL IF REQUIRED:**

Planning Department Director will be staff for the FPO Board

**NEW OR RENEWAL OR AMENDMENT:**

New proposal.

**ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

This planning tool is widely accepted throughout the State and enjoys general community support. It is a voluntary program and adoption would help in securing grant funding for conservation efforts. An FPO will also make it possible to create a mechanism for the Purchase of Development Rights in order to preserve farmland in the County. Enclosed documents: 1) The need for a FPO in the County 2) Frequently Asked Questions 3) Draft of proposed Farmland Preservation Ordinance (available electronically) and 4) Letters of support (available electronically).

**PROCUREMENT INFORMATION:**

N/A

**CONTACT PERSON WITH PHONE NUMBER:**

Please call Pat Crowley 384-8116; Lotta Jarnefelt 384-8115; or Julie Pioch 370-7878

## **Excluding Kalamazoo County from Soil and Water Conservation Program Highlights Need for Farmland Preservation Ordinance (FPO) in Kalamazoo County.**

In 2015, Kalamazoo County was specifically excluded from a new state soil and water conservation program promoted by Governor Snyder and became ineligible for some outside grants because it did not have a FPO. All our neighboring counties have adopted this ordinance. In the summer of 2015, a small ad hoc working group was started to study what it would take to pass a FPO in Kalamazoo County. In October 2015, the Farm Bureau of Kalamazoo County passed a resolution to assemble a workgroup to request that the Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners pass a Farmland Preservation Ordinance. A representative from the Farm Bureau then joined the ad hoc group which has met monthly since then.

### **A FPO supports agriculture and farmers.**

A Farmland Preservation Ordinance (FPO) makes it possible for land to remain in agriculture as its market value for development increases. A FPO Board is charged with identifying funds to pay eligible owners of productive agricultural land the difference between the agricultural and development values of the land. The land then is entered into a contract whereby the land is preserved for farming. Originally the State of Michigan provided some funding to pay the owners for the development rights, and there are still are some limited federal funds granted for this purpose.

At this point, we would like to propose that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners simply adopt the ordinance and allow for a board to be formed that can choose to seek funding for the program. As state funding of the program was discontinued, and federal funding diminished, most local county FPO Boards became inactive. There are exceptions. A few counties have been successful in securing private and foundation support to carry on their programs. That would be our intent.

Agriculture is a dependable mainstay of our county economy, *especially during recession* and it is worth supporting. In 2012, our county ranked in the top eight counties in Michigan for: value of crops, including nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod (2), rabbits (1), hogs and pigs (8), sheep and lambs (3), colonies of bees (4), sheep and goat wool, mohair and milk (3).

A FPO also helps to recruit the next farming generation, maintain a diverse economy and keep agricultural service businesses in the area. Kalamazoo County has excellent natural resources for farming. In 1979, 50% of all Kalamazoo County soils were classified as prime farmland. By 2013, 10% of those prime farmlands had been lost to urbanization. Kalamazoo County also has plentiful water available to supplement crop needs during the frequent drought periods which severely limit yields in other regions. In 2015, 37% of Kalamazoo County's assessed acres were classified agricultural, but between 2007 and 2012, we lost 124 farms.

Concentrating development and redevelopment in urban areas reduces the high economic and environmental costs of extending water, sewer, and roads into rural areas. Having a FPO available would provide a tool to support this goal. Even if the FPO board chooses a less active fundraising role, having an established FPO would allow our participation in soil and water conservation programs which could benefit the general public by reducing the costs associated with cleaning up surface waters that do not meet the phosphorus, e.coli, and other health based and environmental standards.

To date, supporting letters of this pro-agricultural measure have been received from the Farm Bureau of Kalamazoo County, the Kalamazoo Conservation District, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, the Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Charter Township of Kalamazoo and Southcentral Michigan Planning Council.

This memo has been prepared by the ad hoc working group that consists of members from the Office of the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner, the Kalamazoo Conservation District, the Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition, MSU Extension, the Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council, the Kalamazoo County Planning Department, the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau and a municipal water consultant.

May 3, 2017

For questions, please contact:

Pat Crowley, Drain Commissioner 384-8116

Lotta Jarnefelt, County Planning Department 384-8115

Julie Pioch, MSU Extension 370-7878

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Regarding proposal for Farmland Preservation Ordinance for Kalamazoo County

**Q: What grant opportunities or programs would be available if a FPO was adopted?**

Specific revenue opportunities that are associated with FPO: Healthy Waters, Working Farms (part of the Governor's Water Strategy); the State of Michigan's Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program; in other counties, private foundations such as the Wege and Frye Foundation, have placed millions in the purchase of development rights in Kent County. Ottawa County has received donations from the agricultural services industries in that area to pay for development rights. The Natural Resource Conservation Service's Agricultural Land Easement program offers up to 50% of the purchase of development rights.

**Q: Is the County actually experiencing a loss of valuable farmland? Who conducted the study? Who paid for the Study?**

From 2007 to 2012, Kalamazoo County lost 124 farms, totaling 1,333 acres. Over that same period, the average size of a farm increased from 170 to 196 which indicates that small farms were the ones to have been lost. This information was conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service in 2012. Taxpayers paid for the study.

**Q: Is this an undue governmental influence on the private sector development industry? Will the County be seen as anti-development?**

Farmland preservation (and its ordinances) recognize the important role that agriculture plays in our current and future economic diversity. Farmland Preservation Ordinances (FPOs) offer a mechanism for counties and townships to encourage recruitment of the next farming generation, maintain a diverse economic environment, keep agricultural service business' in the area, and prevent productive soils from being paved over. Rather than being seen as "anti-development" the county will be seen as being "pro-agriculture."

**Q: What would a Countywide Farmland Preservation Board do?**

The Board would work with County staff to create bylaws, seek funding sources, and if successful - oversee the purchase of Farmland development rights by evaluating and accepting requests. Should the FPO Board choose an inactive fund raising role, it would still allow County departments to participate in conservation programs and other grant opportunities.

**Q: What other SW Michigan counties have adopted a Farmland Preservation Ordinance?**

Many of Kalamazoo County's neighboring counties, have adopted a FPO tailored to their long-term agricultural and economic plans: Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Calhoun, St. Joseph, Van Buren and Berrien.

**Q: Where will the money come to pay for development rights?**

Money to pay for development rights can come from many sources. Kalamazoo County would likely combine private individual and corporate donations with foundation support. Our committee would like to see requests made to the large agricultural companies, like seed and implement companies, but the Farmland Preservation Board would be the body that would determine what funding sources to pursue.

**Q: Doesn't PA116 provide the same protection?**

PA116 does not provide the same protections as a farmland preservation ordinance. PA116 is a state-sponsored program intended to provide short-term relief from certain kinds of taxes and special assessments (sanitary sewer, water, lights and non-farm drainage) in exchange for the landowner promising to keep that land in agriculture. Farmland preservation ordinances are planning and zoning tools that allow townships and counties to plan for, promote and increase the economic impact of agricultural activities.

**Q: If we are ineligible because of the lack of a FPO why not change the requirement to PA 116?**

This action would require legislative action to change Public Act 116. Counties and Townships without Farmland Preservation Ordinances are already eligible for PA 116.

**Q: Could changes to the PA 116 program have an impact on the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund grants to local farmland Purchase of Development Rights Programs?**

The Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund is authorized under a different statute than the PA 116 Program. Any changes in the PA 116 statute would not directly affect the Agricultural Preservation Fund. However, dollars for making grants to local communities comes from repayments of landowners coming out of PA 116. Funds from repayments have been limited in recent years and any future changes to the PA 116 program may further reduce these payments.

**Q: Is this a version of "corporate welfare" to pay a property owner to keep farming land he/she may really have no intention of selling?**

No. The purchase of development rights (PDR) is a one-time selling of the development rights for a property. It is a transaction for part of the value of a property. There is no annual pay-out to keep a farm in operation. In fact, there is no guarantee that the farm will still be in operation in any given year, only that the land will still be available for agricultural purposes.

**Q: Does county adoption of a FPO decrease the authority of a township?**

No. The application process for PDR includes township approval.

**Q: Can the purchase of the development rights be reversed?**

Yes, but not easily. Development rights acquired pursuant to this Ordinance shall be held by the County in perpetuity and the development rights may be repurchased by the landowner only when a court of competent jurisdiction has determined through eminent domain that the use of those development rights is necessary for a specific public interest, need or purpose.

May 3, 2017

### **Kalamazoo County Farmland Development Rights Ordinance**

AN ORDINANCE creating the Kalamazoo County Farmland Preservation Program which protects farmland by acquiring development rights voluntarily offered by landowners, authorizes the cash purchase and/or installment purchases of such development rights, places an agricultural conservation easement on the property which restricts future development, and provides the standards and procedures for the purchase of development rights and the placement of an agricultural conservation easement.

THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, DO ORDAIN:

#### **Section 1: Declaration of Purpose**

A. *Economic importance of farmland and agriculture.* Kalamazoo County's agricultural land is a unique and economically important resource. These lands support a locally important and globally unique agricultural industry that includes; dairy, livestock, food from grains, vegetables, fruit, and nursery and greenhouse crops. Kalamazoo County's climate, topography, and accessibility make it uniquely suited to the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products on a regional, national, and international level.

Kalamazoo County's economic base is also supported by a variety of agriculturally related businesses including; farm equipment, fuel, veterinarians, grain dealers, packaging plants, and professional services.

B. *Importance of other non-agricultural attributes of farmland.* In addition to its economic benefits, the county's farmland contributes significantly to the open space and natural resource benefits, including rural character, scenic beauty, cultural heritage, hunting and other recreational opportunities, and the environmental benefits including watershed protection and wildlife habitat. By enhancing the scenic beauty and rural character of the county and providing other open space benefits, the county's farmland increases the overall quality of life and makes the county an attractive place to live and work for all of the county's residents.

C. *The extent of development and farmland loss.* Because of the county's natural resources, productive farmland and rural character, it has become a desirable place to live and work. The population growth in Kalamazoo County has continued to increase dramatically. As the population increases and people move out into the countryside, agricultural land is converted to residential and other developed uses. There has also been a corresponding increase in residential parcels and loss of farmland.

D. *The Impact of farmland loss.* Land suitable for farming is an irreplaceable natural resource with soil and topographic characteristics that have been enhanced by generations of agricultural use. When such land is converted to residential or other more developed uses that do not require those special characteristics, a critical community resource is permanently lost to the citizens of the county.

Residential development in agricultural areas also makes farming more difficult by increasing conflict over farming practices and increased trespass, liability exposure and property damage. Because agricultural land is an invaluable economic, natural and aesthetic resource, the county should make an effort to maintain agricultural land in a substantially undeveloped state to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture and to create a long-term business environment for agriculture in the county.

- E. *State and local policies.* It is the policy of the State of Michigan and Kalamazoo County to protect, preserve and enhance farmland as evidenced by Township Master Plans, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, the State Agricultural Preservation Fund, the Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement Act, portions of the County Zoning Act, and other state and local statutes and policies. These measures by themselves, however, have not effectively provided sufficient long-term protection of farmland in Kalamazoo County from the pressure of increasing residential and commercial development.
- F. *Value of development rights.* Generally, farmland has a greater market value for future residential development than the market for farming. The features of good farmland, such as perkable soils and open space views, are also the features desired for residential home sites. This fact encourages the speculative purchase of farmland at high prices for future residential development, regardless of the current zoning of such lands. Farmland which has a greater development potential and market value than its agricultural value does not attract sustained agricultural investment and eventually is sold to non-farmers and removed from agricultural use.
- G. *Purpose of the program.* It is the purpose of the Kalamazoo County Farmland Preservation Program and this development rights ordinance to protect farmland in order to maintain a long-term business environment for agriculture in the county, to preserve the rural character and scenic attributes of the county, to enhance important environmental benefits and to maintain the quality of life of county residents.
- H. *Mechanism to achieve purpose.* The purchase of development rights and the placement of an agricultural conservation easement on farmland through the Kalamazoo County Farmland Preservation Program as provided for in this Ordinance is a public purpose of Kalamazoo County. Acquisition of development rights requires that the County enter into agreements with property owners to obtain such development rights. Properties on which the County has purchased development rights and entered into an agricultural conservation easement should remain substantially undeveloped in order to remain viable for agricultural use.
- I. *Intent of Ordinance.* The intent of this ordinance is to provide a mechanism for Farmland preservation. It is not the intent of this ordinance to make a statement

regarding the funding principles of this or any future County Board of Commissioners. The funding of activities under this ordinance will remain the prerogative of future County Boards of Commissioners. Further, while the intent of this ordinance is to provide a framework to seek Development rights for Farmland, the actual number of acres for which Development rights will be purchased will also remain the prerogative of future County Boards of Commissioners.

## Section 2: Definitions

- A. "Agricultural conservation easement" means a conveyance by a written instrument, in which, subject to permitted uses, the owner relinquishes to the public in perpetuity his or her development rights and makes a covenant running with the land not to undertake development.
- B. "Agricultural use" means substantially undeveloped land devoted to the production of plants and animals useful to humans, including forages and sod crops; grains, feed crops, and field crops; dairy and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; livestock, including breeding and grazing of cattle, swine, captive cervidae, and similar animals; berries; herbs; flowers; seeds; grasses; nursery stock; fruits; vegetables; Christmas trees; and other similar uses and activities. Agricultural use includes use in a federal acreage set-aside program, a federal conservation reserve program, or a wetland reserve program. Agricultural use does not include the management and harvesting of a woodlot.
- C. "Development" means an activity that materially alters or affects the existing conditions or use of any land in a manner that is inconsistent with an agricultural use.
- D. "Development rights" means an interest in land that includes the right to construct a building or structure, to improve land for development, to divide a parcel for development purposes or to extract minerals incidental to a permitted use or as set forth in an agricultural conservation easement.
- E. "Farmland" means 1 or more of the following:
  - (i) A farm of 40 or more acres in 1 ownership, with 51% or more of the land area devoted to an agricultural use.
  - (ii) A farm of 5 acres or more in 1 ownership, but less than 40 acres, with 51% or more of the land area devoted to an agricultural use, that has produced a gross annual income from agriculture of \$200.00 per year or more per acre of cleared and tillable land. A farm described in this subparagraph enrolled in a federal acreage set-aside program or a federal conservation reserve program is considered to have produced a gross annual income from agriculture of \$200.00 per year or more per acre of cleared and tillable land.

- (iii) A farm designated by the department of agriculture as a specialty farm in 1 ownership that has produced a gross annual income of \$2,000.00 or more from an agricultural use. Specialty farms include, but are not limited to, greenhouses; equine breeding and grazing; the breeding and grazing of cervidae, pheasants, and other game animals; bees and bee products; mushrooms; aquaculture; and other similar uses and activities.
- (iv) Parcels of land in Township, described above do not have to be contiguous but must constitute an integral part of a farming operation being conducted on land otherwise qualifying as farmland.
- F. "Intensity of development" means the height, bulk, area, density, setback, use, and other similar characteristics of development.
- G. "Parcel" means a quantity of land in the possession of a single owner.
- H. "Permitted use" means any use expressly authorized within an agricultural conservation easement consistent with the farming operation or that does not adversely affect the productivity or agricultural use of the land. Storage, retail or wholesale marketing, or processing of agricultural products is a permitted use in a farming operation if more than 50% of the stored, processed, or merchandised products are produced by the farm operator for at least 3 of the immediately preceding 5 years. Permitted use includes oil and gas exploration and extraction, but does not include other mineral development that is inconsistent with an agricultural use.
- I. "Property owner" means the party or parties having a freehold estate or fee simple interest in land.
- J. "PDR program" means a program as defined in the County Zoning Act for the purchase of development rights by a county.

### **Section 3: Authorization**

- A. Pursuant to the County Zoning Act, the County Board of Commissioners is authorized to purchase the development rights of farmland throughout the County. Such acquisition may be by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, covenant or contract. The County shall only purchase development rights on farmland that are voluntarily offered for sale by a property owner.
- B. The County is authorized to enter into installment purchase contracts, options, and agreements or take receipt of tax-deductible donations of easements, consistent with applicable law. The County is authorized to pay interest on the declining unpaid principal balance at a legal rate of interest consistent with prevailing market conditions at the time of execution of the installment purchase contract.
- C. The County may contract with recognized and legally established nonprofit land trusts or other experienced and qualified individuals, parties or entities that would

assist the County in the process of negotiating easements and purchase contracts, establishing baseline studies and procedures for monitoring, and actual monitoring of any agricultural conservation easements acquired under this Ordinance.

- D. The County is authorized to seek grants from federal and State government and private foundations, organizations and individuals for funding for expenditures incurred in carrying out this ordinance.

#### **Section 4: County Agricultural Preservation Board**

- A. The County Board of Commissioners shall create a seven member body under this Ordinance to be named the County Agricultural Preservation Board. The seven voting members shall be residents of the county and will be appointed by the County Board of Commissioners and will include: (a) one County Commissioner, (b) three individuals with agricultural interests, (c) one representative from township government, (d) one individual with real estate or development interests, and (e) one individual representing local conservation interests.
- B. Members of the County Agricultural Preservation Board shall serve three-year terms, with the exception that the County Commissioner representative shall be designated on an annual basis. The initial term shall be staggered so that one of the agricultural representatives and the real estate representative serve an initial one-year term, another agricultural representative and the local township representative serve an initial two-year term and the third agricultural representative and the local conservation representative serve an initial three-year term. Members may be re-appointed to successive three-year terms by the County Board of Commissioners. The County Board of Commissioners shall have the discretion to remove members for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

Vacancies due to removal or resignation shall be filled for the remainder of a term by appointment by the County Board of Commissioners. Members shall not be compensated for their services although reimbursement for attending meetings, for mileage and for other approved expenses shall be provided in accordance with the Standing Rules of the County Board of Commissioners as they pertain to County boards and committees.

- C. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall oversee the county's farmland preservation program and shall be responsible for:
- i. Establishing selection criteria for the ranking and prioritization of applications to the program. The selection criteria must be approved by the County Board of Commissioners prior to each application cycle.
  - ii. Establishing a points-based appraisal formula for determining the value of the agricultural conservation easements, which shall be subject to the approval of the County Board of Commissioners.

- iii. Reviewing and providing oversight in scoring all applications according to the adopted selection criteria.
  - iv. Ranking and prioritizing the top scoring applications for acquisition and making recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners for the purchase of development rights.
  - v. Approving the restrictions and permitted uses under the agricultural conservation easement.
  - vi. Establishing the price to be offered to the property owner and authorize negotiations for the purchase of development rights and agricultural conservation easement. All purchases of development rights and agricultural conservation easements must be approved by the County Board of Commissioners.
  - vii. Establishing monitoring procedures and overseeing subsequent monitoring to insure compliance with the agricultural conservation easement. Enforcement of the agricultural conservation easement in the case of non-compliance shall be the responsibility of the County Board of Commissioners.
- D. Individual County Agricultural Preservation Board members may not sell development rights to farmland under this ordinance during their term of office. Individual County Agricultural Preservation Board members shall disclose any potential conflict of interest and may not vote when a conflict exists. Conflicts of interest include, but are not confined to, situations where (1) the member is a close relative of the applicant; (2) the board member has a close business association or ties with the applicant; (3) the board member, a relative, or a business associate could receive financial gain or benefit from the acceptance of the application.
- E. To the extent of available funding and as approved by the County Board of Commissioners after consultation with the County Agricultural Preservation Board, the County may contract with qualified and experienced individuals or entities for consulting or staffing services.
- F. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall provide the County Board of Commissioners an annual report outlining the administration of the program, issues addressed and outcomes of the program for the proceeding year, including the selection criteria, number of applications, number of eligible properties, agricultural value, Development rights purchased, and other information regarding the status and activities undertaken with respect to this ordinance.

### **Section 5: Eligibility for Application**

Any property owner may submit an application to the county farmland preservation program provided the application meets the following guidelines:

- A. The property owner has signed the application, indicating interest in voluntarily selling the development rights to the parcel.
- B. At least 51% of the parcel's area is devoted to an active agricultural use and no more than 49% of the parcel may be devoted to non-agricultural open space consisting of wetlands, woodlands, or otherwise unusable land.
- C. The County shall not purchase development rights under a development rights ordinance from land subject to a city, village, or township zoning ordinance unless all of the following requirements are met:
  - i. The development rights ordinance provisions for the PDR program are consistent with the plan upon which the city, village, or township zoning are based.
  - ii. The legislative body of the city, village, or township adopts a resolution authorizing the PDR program to apply in the city, village, or township.
  - iii. The city, village or township provides the county with written approval of the purchase.
- D. The property is not planned for commercial or industrial uses under the Township, City or Village Master Plan or under the auspices of a regional planning document.
- E. Agricultural activities are a permitted use on the parcel under all applicable zoning ordinances.

### **Section 6: Criteria for Reviewing and Ranking Applications**

The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall establish selection criteria for ranking and prioritizing all eligible parcels submitted to the County Farmland Preservation Program which criteria shall be subject to the approval of the County Board of Commissioners. The selection criteria shall place an emphasis on farmland that:

- A. As part of the application procedure for the specific proposed purchase of development rights, the city, village, or township provides the county with written approval of the purchase.
- B. Has a productive capacity suited for the production of feed, food and fiber and has a greater potential for long-term agricultural production. Specific selection criteria may be based on soil classifications, parcel size, agricultural income, enrollment in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, or the implementation of a soil conservation plan.
- C. Is under the threat of development. Specific selection criteria may be based on proximity to public sanitary sewer or water, the extent of development activity in the township or the amount of road frontage.

- D. Complements other farmland protection efforts in the County. Specific selection criteria may include proximity to other permanently protected farmland, proximity to other protected lands or surrounding land enrolled in the State Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act, or inclusion in an agricultural zoning district.
- E. Has additional matching funds provided by a local unit of government, landowner or private sources.
- F. Other factors considered important by the County Agricultural Preservation Board such as unique physical, historical or environmental characteristics.

**Section 7: Application and Selection Process**

- A. The County shall on an annual basis, at the discretion of the County Agricultural Preservation Board, conduct a voluntary application and selection process for property owners who wish to sell development rights under the County farmland preservation program.
- B. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall begin each application cycle by giving notice at least 90 days in advance of the application deadline that the County is accepting applications to the County farmland preservation program. Notification shall be given in newspapers of general circulation within the County, through the County Farm Bureau, County Conservation District, County MSU-Extension Service, local township offices and other organizations.
- C. The application may require information to be filled out by the property owner, the county Conservation District and the local unit of government.
- D. All applications represent the applicant's intent to sell the development rights of the property to the County subject to mutually acceptable terms. The application will remain active per annual written approval of landowner, provided there is no subsequent modifications to the scoring criteria or application that requires additional information. Local cities, villages, and townships will be asked to sign a letter of continued support for standing landowner applications and all applications, both new and old, will be scored and ranked for each cycle.
- E. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall give notice to each city, village, or township in which an applicant for the purchase of development rights has been received, and the disposition of that application.
- F. At the close of the application deadline, an initial determination of eligibility shall be completed by the County Agricultural Preservation Board or designated staff. The property owner shall be notified if their application is not eligible for the program. Each application shall be evaluated and scored according to selection criteria approved by the County Agricultural Preservation Board and the County Board of Commissioners prior to the application cycle.

- G. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall rank parcels according to the selection criteria score but shall also individually evaluate and prioritize the top scoring parcels. The County Agricultural Preservation Board may reprioritize the top scoring parcels based on individual review of each application and establishing a priority on which development rights should be purchased first based on available funds.

The written rationale for reprioritization of the top scoring parcels shall be included with each application.

- H. The final ranking and prioritization of applications shall be submitted to the County Board of Commissioners for their approval.
- I. Agricultural value shall be based upon a price established by the County Agricultural Preservation Board using a state certified appraiser or a points based appraisal method established in section 10.
- J. Upon mutual agreement to the terms of the purchase by the property owner and the County Agricultural Preservation Board, but before the approval of the County Board of Commissioners, a title search shall be completed before signing and recording of the agricultural conservation easement. Any questions or concerns regarding clear title to the property shall be resolved prior to signing of the agricultural conservation easement. All individuals, parties or entities with an interest in the property must be willing to agree to the terms and provisions of the agricultural conservation easement.
- K. Each purchase of development rights and agricultural conservation easement requires the approval of the County Board of Commissioners. The County Board of Commissioners may alter the recommendation by the County Agricultural Preservation Board to purchase the development rights at its discretion.
- L. Once the application has been approved for purchase by the County Board of Commissioners, the county and the property owners shall sign the agricultural conservation easement and it shall be legally recorded with the County Clerk's office.
- M. The County shall notify the appropriate local unit of government of each agricultural conservation easement.
- N. The agricultural conservation easement will be monitored in accordance with procedures and guidelines established by the County Agricultural Preservation Board.

#### **Section 8: Agricultural Conservation Easement Provisions**

- A. Upon the agreement of the sale of development rights by the County Agricultural Preservation Board, the property owner and the County Board of

Commissioners, the County and the property owner shall execute an agricultural conservation easement, approved by the County Agricultural Preservation Board and the County Board of Commissioners, that will perpetually protect the parcel's agricultural use by preventing any use that would significantly impair or interfere with the agricultural value or use of the farmland. The agricultural conservation easement shall contain a provision indicating that the easement runs with the land and may not be terminated except as provided for in this Ordinance and the easement.

- B. Restrictions on that portion of the property included in the agricultural conservation easement shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- i. Property shall not be divided into parcels less than 40 acres in size.
  - ii. The construction of residences for new owners of any divisions shall be prohibited.
  - iii. Construction of any other buildings, unless they are built for uses consistent with farming operations shall be prohibited.
  - iv. Commercial or industrial activity that is inconsistent with a typical farming operation shall be prohibited.
  - v. Excavation of topsoil, sand, gravel, rock, minerals or other materials that significantly impairs or interferes with the agricultural values of the property shall not take place without prior written approval of the County Board of Commissioners or its designee.
- C. Permitted uses and retained development rights in the agricultural conservation easement shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- i. Construction of buildings necessary for and consistent with agricultural uses.
  - ii. The right to construct one additional residence for an individual essential to the farm operation as defined in section 36110(5) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, MCL 324.36110(5); MSA 13A.36110(5). Structure built must be in conformance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations.
  - iii. The right to maintain, renovate, add on to, or replace existing structures. Structure built must be in conformance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations.
  - iv. The right to sell, mortgage, bequeath or donate the property, provided any conveyance will remain subject to terms of the easement.

### **Section 9: Duration of the Agricultural Conservation Easement**

- A. The agricultural conservation easement shall run with the land regardless of transfers in property ownership. It is the intent of this ordinance to preserve valuable farmland through the establishment of permanent conservation easements. Development rights acquired pursuant to this Ordinance shall be held by the County in perpetuity and the development rights may be repurchased by the landowner only when a court of competent jurisdiction has determined

through eminent domain that the use of those development rights is necessary for a specific public interest, need or purpose.

- B. Upon a court's determination of eminent domain and that the purchase of the development rights from the County is necessary for a specific public interest, need or purpose, the parties exercising the use of the development rights through eminent domain or the landowner shall pay the fair market value of those development rights at the time of their purchase to the County, as determined by a State Certified Appraiser or utilizing the points based appraisal in section 10, before the termination of the agricultural conservation easement. The value of the development rights shall be determined as the difference between the fair market value of the property with all development rights intact and the value of the property for agricultural use with an agricultural conservation easement in place or the value of the developments. If the appraiser has a conflict of interest associated with a potential appraisal, the appraiser shall report the conflict to the County and the County shall select another appraiser to complete the appraisal.
- C. The County will deposit the proceeds from any repurchases into the farmland preservation fund and the proceeds shall be used to purchase additional development rights and agricultural conservation easements on additional farmland within the county.

**Section 10: Determining the Value of the Agricultural Conservation Easement**

- A. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall utilize a state certified appraiser to determine the value of the development rights or shall establish a points-based appraisal method and formula for determining the value of the agricultural conservation easement prior to each application cycle. The appraisal may calculate the value of the development rights as the difference between the fair market value of the property with all development rights intact and the value of the property for agricultural use with an agricultural conservation easement in place. The County Agricultural Preservation Board may establish guidelines, consistent with state standards, for the state certified appraiser to use in determining the fair market value or the agricultural value. The points-based appraisal method, as authorized under P.A. 262 of 2000, reduces administration costs, is much more time efficient, provides a consistent and objective value for all applicants and allows property owners to determine the value of the agricultural conservation easement prior to submitting an application. The formula shall establish a Base Value based on the parcel's soil characteristics, size and proximity to other protected farmland. The Base Value shall be increased if the parcel qualifies for a market value adjustment based on the parcel's location within the county and the amount of road frontage. In determining the market value adjustment, an average of actual vacant land sales of parcels over 20 acres in size zoned for agricultural purposes sold during the prior three years shall be determined for each township. The parcel may also qualify for a premium based on its proximity to sewer and water as determined by formula established by the County Agricultural Preservation Board. The County

Agricultural Preservation Board shall review the points-based appraisal method at the end of each application cycle and compare agricultural conservation easement values relative to actual fair market sales in the county.

- B. The property owner may obtain, within a reasonable time frame, an appraisal of the development rights from a state certified appraiser at the property owner's expense. The appraisal may calculate the value of the development rights as the difference between the fair market value of the property with all development rights intact and the value of the property for agricultural use with an agricultural conservation easement in place. The County Agricultural Preservation Board may establish guidelines, consistent with state standards, for the state certified appraiser to use in determining the fair market value or the agricultural value.
- C. The County Agricultural Preservation Board shall approve the price to be offered and paid for the agricultural conservation easement. If the property owner obtains an independent appraisal, the County Agricultural Preservation Board may elect to renegotiate the initial offer based on qualified circumstances.
- D. The property owner may be paid a cash payment or offered an installment purchase contract, or a combination of both.

#### **Section 11: Related Costs**

The cost of services ordered by the County Agricultural Preservation Board in relation to the County's farmland preservation program shall be paid from all available farmland preservation program funding sources within the County, including state and federal matching funds, which may include the cost of appraisal, engineering, surveying, planning, financial, legal, environmental assessments, title searches, developing baseline assessments, monitoring easements. The County shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the property owner incidental to any aspects of application for purchase of the development rights that the County Agricultural Preservation Board has determined is the responsibility of the property owner, which may include title searches, appraisals, or surveying.

#### **Section 12: Farmland Preservation Fund**

- A. Available funding for the County farmland preservation program shall be deposited in a special farmland preservation fund. Money in such farmland preservation fund may be temporarily deposited in such institutions or invested in such obligations as may be lawful for the investment of county money. The revenues from the deposit and/or investment of the farmland preservation fund shall be applied and used solely for the purpose of purchasing of development rights and agricultural conservation easements under this Ordinance, making payments obligated under installment purchase contracts, promoting farmland preservation programs, or paying for costs of administering or enforcing the county farmland preservation program.

- B. Supplemental or matching funds from private sources or other governmental agencies, including local municipalities, the State or Federal Government, may become available to pay a portion of the cost of acquiring development rights or agricultural conservation easements or to supplement or enlarge such acquisitions. The County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Agricultural Preservation Board to use such funds to purchase development rights of farmland and acquire agricultural conservation easements.
- C. The County, upon approval by the County Board of Commissioners, may finance the County farmland preservation program through 1 or more of the following sources:
- i. General appropriations by the county.
  - ii. Proceeds from the sale of development rights by the county under Section 9.
  - iii. Grants.
  - iv. Donations.
  - v. General fund revenue.
  - vi. Bonds or notes as permitted by law.
  - vii. Special assessments as permitted by law.
  - viii. Other sources approved by the County Board of Commissioners and permitted by law.

**Section 13: Amendments**

This Ordinance may be amended at the discretion of the County Board of Commissioners by majority vote.

**Section 14: Severability**

Any provision of this Ordinance which is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or illegal shall in no way affect, impair or invalidate any other provision contained in the Ordinance and such other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 15: Effective Date**

This ordinance shall become effective on the date upon which notice of its adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation in Kalamazoo County.

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Dale Shugars, Chairman  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

---

Timothy A. Snow  
County Clerk



February 28, 2017

Lotta Jarnefelt  
Kalamazoo County Dept. of Planning and Community Development  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo MI 49007

To the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners:

**Board of Directors**

Stephen Hamilton

Donald Brown

James Coury

Sue Foune

Robert Whitesides

Patricia Crowley

David Heinicke

Christine Kosmowski

Kenneth Kornheiser

Dennis Stelzer

Brian Huggett

On behalf of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, I am writing this letter in support of the adoption of a Farmland Preservation Ordinance in Kalamazoo County. We encourage the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners to consider a Farmland Preservation Ordinance to preserve our local agricultural economy and natural resources.

The mission of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council is preserving and improving water quality throughout the watershed. A Farmland Preservation Ordinance could further this goal. Such an ordinance allows Kalamazoo County farmers to become eligible for farm programs that keep soil and nutrients in place instead of these becoming pollutants in our waterways. Land used for open space and agriculture, when properly managed, can release less pollution to waterways when compared to developed land. The result is better water quality and a sustainable agricultural economy.

Counties around the state have enacted Farmland Preservation Ordinances to the benefit of landowners, especially those preparing to transfer land and farming operations to the next generation. The ordinance can serve as an important tool for tax and farm succession planning. In terms of water quality, this translate into water quality protection that extends into the future as land changes ownership from generation to generation.

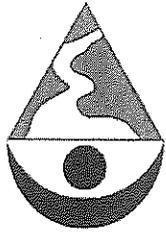
The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council sees a Farmland Preservation Ordinance as an important land use planning tool, one that can improve water quality and preserve the county's agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth M. Kornheiser". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kenneth Kornheiser, Acting President  
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

*The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council is a public, non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is to work collaboratively with the community, government agencies, local officials and businesses to improve and protect the health of the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries, and its watershed.*



# Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition

420 E. Alcott  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
269-382-0490  
269-382-6836 fax  
[www.kalrivercleanup.org](http://www.kalrivercleanup.org)

"We do not inherit our environment from our ancestors, but borrow it from our children."

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

201 W. Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Board Members;

The Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition endorses the initiative for the County of Kalamazoo to have a "Farmland Preservation and Open Space" ordinance. Our organization is working to preserve and improve water quality. This would include concerns for aquatic habitats, riparian land use and impacts of water pollution on public health. Our most direct concern is that by not having a Farmland Preservation Ordinance in Kalamazoo County, we are not competitive with surrounding counties that do have a FPO. We are not competitive in acquiring agricultural practices grants that assist in keeping soil and nutrients in place. Keeping water borne nutrients in place is a first line defense of water quality.

A "Farmland Preservation Ordinance" works by acquiring the "Development Rights" of farmland, while leaving agriculture operation of farmland in place. The transfer to the County of development rights is permanent and assists in making the water quality improvements permanent from one farming generation to another. Making more farm operators eligible for programs to improve water quality is the main goal of our organization in relationship to a "Farm Land Preservation and Open Space Ordinance". There are other benefits for water quality in the preservation of farm land. Well managed woodlots, wetlands, pastures and croplands of farmland release smaller amount of nutrients to waterways than developed land.

The character of Kalamazoo County changes as open space is reduced by development. There are government owned open spaces at parks and school sports fields, and The Nature Conservancy has set aside natural areas for preservation and public use. The rest of the open space, wetlands, woodlands, pasture and croplands are generally in privately held agricultural lands. Our agricultural business economy does in fact need at a minimum 15% of the land area in agriculture in order to keep the supporting agricultural businesses in the area. Farming becomes less efficient as cropland is fractionated by development. The delivery of government services and utilities is more efficient if development is concentrated close to where these services already exist. The ability of the County to acquire "Development Rights" could be another long term planning tool.

Please consider our endorsement of a "Farm land Preservation and Open Space Ordinance".

Sincerely,

Gary L. Wäger, Exec. Dir.



**Board of Directors**

W. Jack Keiser  
*Chair*  
Janice Vanhey  
*Vice Chair*

Mary Houser  
*Treasurer*

Susan Houseman  
*Secretary*

Larry J. Case

Dave Coleman

Thom Coder

Erwin H. Doerschler

Thomas Georgoff

Jennifer Haywood

Jennifer Lau

Bill Main

Robert L. O'Boyle

Gail Walter

**Staff**

Peter D. Ter Louw  
*President & Executive Director*

C. Miko Dargitz  
*Development Associate*

Nate Fuller  
*Conservation and Stewardship Director*

Anelia Hansen  
*Communications Specialist*

Bruce Howe  
*Land Protection Specialist*

Mitch Letow  
*Stewardship Specialist*

Cindy Mills  
*Conservation Easement Specialist*

Nicole Speedy  
*Database Manager*

Emily E. Wilke  
*Conservation Projects Manager*

April 21, 2017

Hon. Dale Shugars, Chairperson  
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Mr. Shugars,

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) supports the need for a Farmland Preservation Ordinance for the conservation of farmland in Kalamazoo County and seeks the creation and approval of this ordinance by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners.

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is 501(c)(3) nonprofit land conservancy established in 1991 to protect the natural, historic, and scenic lands in the nine counties of southwest Michigan. SWMLC is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, and has protected over 15,000 acres of wetlands, woodlands, dunes, and farmland with a focus on protecting water resources and Lake Michigan.

SWMLC has a 20-year history of preserving farmland in southwest Michigan. We are committed to: protecting farmland to improve soil, water, air, plant and animal resources to help ensure long-term sustainability regardless of land use; promoting the idea that "Food Sovereignty" improves economic stability and helps build political security; and helping people understand that land is not a commodity simply to be used up and discarded in the most expedient manner.

In Kalamazoo County, SWMLC has conserved 1,700 acres of land of which eight parcels are protected through donated conservation easements – land which remains privately owned, but cannot be subdivided or developed. These eight properties totaling over 1,000 acres are predominantly farmland located in Ross and Richland Townships – land essential for supporting this region's agricultural economy.

The establishment of a Farmland Preservation Ordinance for Kalamazoo County would assist in promoting farmland preservation and complement SWMLC's current conservation work. SWMLC encourages the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners to consider and approve a Farmland Preservation Ordinance for Kalamazoo County.

Sincerely yours,

Peter D. Ter Louw  
President and Executive Director

*Charter*  
**Township**  
*of Kalamazoo*

1720 Riverview Dr.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004  
(269) 381-8080  
www.ktwp.org

March 13, 2017

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners  
201 W. Kalamazoo  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners,

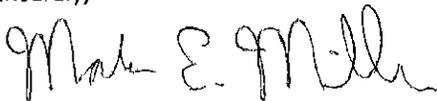
The Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees endorses the initiative for the County of Kalamazoo to have a "Farmland Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance. Kalamazoo Township is bordered by rural and agriculture land uses that are worth preserving. Preserving rural and open space lands in Kalamazoo County, discourages greenfield development and encourages brownfield redevelopment in our township as well as incentives for redevelopment in our urban and suburban neighborhoods where housing infrastructure currently exists. It is our belief that a "Farmland Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance could be a useful tool in long term planning.

What such an ordinance does is set up a mechanism for "Development Rights" of agricultural land to be purchased by what funding is available and held by the County of Kalamazoo. The land can continue to be operated as an agricultural business or open space, but not developed. The draft of this ordinance is based on the Kent County ordinance. Kent County has similar demographics and land use to that of Kalamazoo County and they have a successful program. The ordinance sets up a "Farm Land and Open Space Preservation Board". This board reviews the voluntary applications of farm operators to sell "Development Rights". In the ordinance, these applications must be agreed to by the township in which the land is located and township planning will not be overridden.

The Kalamazoo Township Board believes a "Farm Land Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance would be good addition as a long term planning tool. Development would be encouraged where it is efficient to provide governmental services and utilities. There would be less pressure for private farm owners to develop if development rights could be sold separately, thus allowing another generation of farmers to operate an agriculture business on the land. In addition, there may be advantages in acquiring "Development Rights" to some parcels of land to keep a rural nature of a wider area in planning goals.

Please consider the adoption of a "Farm Land Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Miller, Clerk



## Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

300 South Westnedge Avenue · Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Phone: (269) 385-0409 · Fax: (269) 343-3308 · Email: [info@smpcregion3.org](mailto:info@smpcregion3.org)

**TO:**

Lotta Jarnefelt  
Department of Planning & Community Development  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

**FROM:**

Lee Adams, Director  
Southcentral Michigan Planning Council  
300 South Westnedge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**DATE:** April 26, 2017

**RE:** Kalamazoo County Farmland Preservation Ordinance Endorsement

**To Kalamazoo County Commission:**

The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) supports the Kalamazoo County Commission's passing of a Farmland Preservation Ordinance.

SMPC is a regional planning organization that aims to improve the economic, environmental, and fiscal health of member organizations through transportation planning, land use and environmental planning, economic development, and efficient local staffing.

A Kalamazoo County Farmland Preservation Ordinance would assist in meeting the goals of SMPC by creating an avenue to protect agriculture in one part of the region; agriculture is a vital part of the region's economy, culture, visual landscape, and ecosystem. A county ordinance could support local land use planning efforts to promote the reasonable development of each community in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Furthermore, the ordinance could reduce the need for expansion of the transportation system and other public utilities. The proposed ordinance could also assist local units of government with environmental planning efforts.

The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council see agriculture as a cornerstone of the region's culture and economy and is in support of efforts and ordinances that encourage is promotion or preservation.

Best regards,

Lee Adams  
SMPC Director



February 20, 2017

Lotta Jarnefelt  
Director  
Department of Planning & Community Development  
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007



Dear Ms. Jarnefelt,

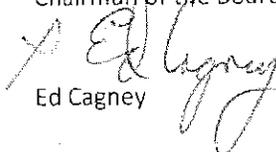
The Kalamazoo Conservation District endorses the initiative for the County of Kalamazoo to have a "Farmland Preservation and Open Space" ordinance. Our organization is working to preserve and improve water quality. This would include concerns for aquatic habitats, riparian land use and impacts of water pollution on public health. Our most direct concern is that by not having a Farmland Preservation Ordinance in Kalamazoo County, we are not competitive with surrounding counties that do have a FPO. We are not competitive in acquiring agricultural practices grants that assist in keeping soil and nutrients in place. Keeping water borne nutrients in place is a first line defense of water quality.

A "Farmland Preservation Ordinance" works by acquiring the "Development Rights" of farmland, while leaving agriculture operation of farmland in place. The transfer to the County of development rights is permanent and assists in making the water quality improvements permanent from one farming generation to another. Making more farm operators eligible for programs to improve water quality is the main goal of our organization in relationship to a "Farm Land Preservation and Open Space Ordinance". There are other benefits for water quality in the preservation of farm land. Well managed woodlots, wetlands, pastures and croplands of farmland release smaller amount of nutrients to waterways than developed land.

The character of Kalamazoo County changes as open space is reduced by development. There are government owned open spaces at parks and school sports fields, and The Nature Conservancy has set aside natural areas for preservation and public use. The rest of the open space, wetlands, woodlands, pasture and croplands are generally in privately held agricultural lands. Our agricultural business economy does in fact need at a minimum 15% of the land area in agriculture in order to keep the supporting agricultural businesses in the area. Farming becomes less efficient as cropland is fractionated by development. The delivery of government services and utilities is more efficient if development is concentrated close to where these services already exist. The ability of the County to acquire "Development Rights" could be another long term planning tool.

Please consider our endorsement of a "Farm land Preservation and Open Space Ordinance".

Sincerely,  
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kalamazoo Conservation District

  
Ed Cagney



5950 Portage Road, Suite A, Portage, Michigan 49002  
Phone: (269) 342-0212 Fax: (269) 342-5009

March 21, 2017

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners  
Lotta Jarnefelt, Director  
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007



Dear Board Members;

Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau endorses the initiative for the County of Kalamazoo to have a "Farmland Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance. Our County has many rural and agriculture aspects that are worth preserving. Farmland once developed seldom returns to agricultural production. Our organization would like to see development reflected in a Master plan and focused in urban areas where roads, utilities and access are readily available near where workers live. It is our belief that a "Farmland Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance will be a useful long term planning tool for Kalamazoo County. What such an ordinance does is set up a mechanism for "Development Rights" of agricultural land to be purchased by what funding is available and held by the County of Kalamazoo. The land can continue to be operated as an agricultural business or open space, but not developed. The draft of this ordinance is based on the Kent County ordinance. Kent County has similar demographics and land use to that of Kalamazoo County and they have a successful program. The ordinance sets up a "Farm Land and Open Space Preservation Board". This board reviews the voluntary applications of farm operators to sell "Development Rights". In the ordinance, these applications must be agreed to by the township in which the land is located and township planning will not be overridden.

Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau believes a "Farm Land Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance would be a good addition as a long term planning tool. Development would be encouraged where it is efficient to provide governmental services and utilities. There would be less pressure for private farm owners to develop if development rights could be sold separately, thus allowing another generation of farmers to operate an agriculture business on the land. In addition, there may be advantages in acquiring "Development Rights" to some parcels of land to keep a rural nature of a wider area in planning goals. Please consider the adoption of a "Farm Land Preservation and Open Space" Ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kelly Leach'.

Kelly Leach, President  
Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

# WELCOMING AMERICA MEMBERSHIP

Welcoming America's national membership program offers tools, resources, and a national network to help nonprofit and government partners transform communities into more welcoming places. Participating members connect with their peers to share good ideas and receive recognition for their efforts in local and national settings.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Apply Online

Talk with Us

Access our Network

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Joining the Welcoming America network allows you to:

- Learn and trade best practices with diverse professionals doing similar work in over 80 cities, counties and non-profit organizations.
- Explore collaboration across sectors to effect local change.
- Access ideas through Welcoming America's training and technical assistance webinars, cohort conference calls, coaching, e-library of best practices and resources, on-site trainings, and annual conferences.
- Receive recognition as part of Welcoming America's internationally recognized and award-winning immigrant inclusion network.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Local governments and nonprofits can apply to be General Members of the Welcoming America Network. General Members commit to:

- Following general membership principles.
- Participating in National Welcoming Week.
- Paying dues to support the network and all groups and organizations within it.
- Having at least one key staff contact.
- Completing an annual member survey.
- Return emails and phone calls from Welcoming America and answer requests from other members.
- Collaborating with other members in their area/region.

[www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org)

**CONTACT US:** If you have any questions, please contact Keiron Bone Dormegnien, Membership and Events Director, at [Keiron@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:Keiron@welcomingamerica.org) or (404) 662-2660.

## MEMBERSHIP PRINCIPLES

### AS WELCOMING AMERICA MEMBERS, WE...

1. **Support** a vision in which all people, including immigrants, have the opportunity to reach their greatest potential, engage with their community, and fully contribute their talents—expanding prosperity and well-being for all.
2. **Engage** both immigrants and receiving community members, as their voices are critical to defining a welcoming agenda.
3. **Work to build greater understanding**, particularly among people who may have concerns about or are unaware of the changing demographics of their community.
4. **Believe** that people of all backgrounds have unique talents that can be brought to bear to make our communities vibrant, and welcoming efforts should be as inclusive as possible to all groups.
5. **Operate with the conviction** that better decisions are reached when multiple backgrounds and perspectives are meaningfully engaged, and strive to create an equitable and collaborative environment in which differences are embraced and harnessed to achieve the best results.
6. **Believe leaders can play a catalytic role** by recognizing, rewarding, and investing in community partners who are essential to building a community's capacity for this work.
7. **Value and recognize** the importance of multi-sector collaboration.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

General members who are municipal governments are eligible to join Welcoming Cities and Counties. Learn more at [www.welcomingcities.org](http://www.welcomingcities.org). Cohort-specific membership responsibilities for participating local governments include a commitment to:

- Agree at the municipal level, as evidenced by a signature from an elected leader or executive, to a set of Welcoming City and County principles.
- Assign an empowered point of contact with routine access to the municipality's leadership who can be responsive to Welcoming America.
- Pass or work toward a resolution or proclamation that your community is committed to being welcoming.
- Attend 3 professional development webinars or conference calls per year.
- Attend the Welcoming America Annual Conference.
- Register and host, with partners as applicable, at least one municipal National Welcoming Week event each year.
- Demonstrate progress in advancing policies and practices each year by seeking ways to deepen the municipality's commitment through policy initiatives or multi-sector planning. Leverage Welcoming America's technical assistance for tools, campaigns, and thought partnership on next steps.
- Respond to Welcoming America annual surveys and bi-annual requests for data within 30 days.

## WE GLOBAL NETWORK

The Welcoming Economies (WE) Global Network is comprised of regional economic development initiatives from across the Midwest working to tap into the economic development opportunities created by immigrants. Governments, nonprofits, and economic development organizations that welcome, retain, and empower immigrant communities in the 10-state region are eligible to join the WE Network, a program of Welcoming America dedicated to Rust Belt economic development. Learn more at [www.weglobalnetwork.org](http://www.weglobalnetwork.org).

## WELCOMING AMERICA ANNUAL DUES BY ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET

- Under \$50,000: \$50
- \$50,000–\$199,999: \$100
- \$200,000–\$399,999: \$125
- \$400,000–\$599,999: \$150
- \$600,000 or more: \$200

Dues are invoiced in January and due in March. If you are joining September 1st to December 31, dues are prorated to 50%.

[www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org)

**CONTACT US:** If you have any questions, please contact Keiron Bone Dormegnien, Membership and Events Director, at [Keiron@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:Keiron@welcomingamerica.org) or (404) 662-2660.

*The*  
**WELCOMING  
STANDARD**

&

**CERTIFIED  
WELCOMING**

PRODUCED BY

WELCOMING  
AMERICA



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# I. INTRODUCTION



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Strong communities in the 21st Century intentionally connect and actively include people of all backgrounds. Only through these conditions do local communities meet their highest civic and economic potential, unleashing the power of all contributions and assets. As places look to harness the wealth and vibrancy that comes from diverse talents and a more global workforce, places that are more welcoming will set themselves apart.

Welcoming America has created the **Welcoming Standard** to outline the core of what it means for a community to be welcoming and sets out the smart local policies, programs, and partnerships that give local communities the welcoming edge.

The Welcoming Standard serves as the backbone of the **Certified Welcoming** program — a formal recognition for city and county governments that meet the rigorous requirements set out in the Welcoming Standard.

II.  
THE  
WELCOMING  
STANDARD



## PURPOSE

The Welcoming Standard provides a comprehensive roadmap for places building more welcoming communities and fostering connections between immigrants and long-time residents. It also sets benchmarks that community organizations, residents, and others can use to hold welcoming places accountable and inspire continued innovation.



## DEVELOPMENT

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Over 18 months, Welcoming America worked with the nation's leading experts — practitioners, academics, business, and civic leaders — and gathered public feedback to identify the policies and programs that constitute the Welcoming Standard. To ensure the Welcoming Standard was rigorous and relevant across diverse communities, requirements were field-tested in several cities and counties. This process follows best practice in standard system design set out by ISEAL and other certification oversight bodies. A list of advisors can be found under Acknowledgements.

The Welcoming Standard will continue to evolve to include new policy and program innovations, and Welcoming America will formally review the Welcoming Standard every five years. Comments on the Welcoming Standard can be emailed to [certified@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:certified@welcomingamerica.org)





## CORE STRATEGIES

How communities design and implement the requirements in the Welcoming Standard is as critical as the content. The following core strategies increase the impact and sustainability of welcoming. All programs and partnerships should have these strategies in place.

### 1 Set goals, monitor impact, and adjust strategies as needed.

Identifying priorities and allowing for course correction are critical to impact when limited resources are available. Monitoring and evaluation also help communities know if they are reaching immigrant residents with programs and meeting their stated goals.

### 2 Build connections between the immigrants and longer-term residents.

Just as fertile soil is needed for a seed to grow, receptive communities are critical if immigrants are to thrive. Engaging longer-term residents in immigrant inclusion programs and partnerships reshapes the boundaries of “us” and “them” building more unified and welcoming communities.

### 3 Provide equitable access.

Where, when, and how a person can access services can significantly impact participation and outcomes. Designing programs and partnerships to increase access to different religions, cultures, races, ethnicities, physical and mental abilities, ages, genders, and sexual orientations is essential to meeting the Welcoming Standard.



# III. REQUIREMENTS



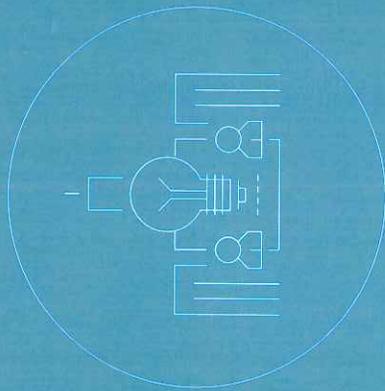
The Welcoming Standard is organized into seven categories critical to building a welcoming community: Government Leadership, Equitable Access, Civic Engagement, Connected Communities, Education, Economic Development, and Safe Communities. Some requirements include indicators that set out additional detail that the requirement should meet.

Requirements are either considered core or additional. Core requirements are central to the Welcoming Standard. Places that are Certified Welcoming meet all core requirements.

1.

## GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

Local government is committed to immigrant inclusion in welcoming communities, and plays a central role in building local capacity while advancing immigrant inclusion within its own agencies and bodies.



## GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

<b>GL1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A policy is in place that designates a unit focused on immigrant inclusion work.	
<b>GL1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The unit is formalized, active, and has dedicated staff.	
<b>GL1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The unit's governance includes multi-sector representation, and representatives reflect the diversity of the immigrant community and the receiving community.	
<b>GL2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The unit advances immigrant inclusion through partnership and collaboration across community sectors and government agencies.	
<b>GL2.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The unit engages other jurisdictions on immigrant inclusion especially those jurisdictions that have impact on the policies and programs included in this standard.	
<b>GL2.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The unit supports local government agencies in setting goals for immigrant inclusion and monitoring progress toward those goals.	
<b>GL3</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A program(s) is in place to provide information on community services.	
<b>GL3.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program(s) provides information on government resources such as local government services and public benefits.	
<b>GL3.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program(s) provides information on English language learning opportunities.	
<b>GL3.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The program(s) provides information on naturalization.	
<b>GL3.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The program(s) provides information on professional licensing and starting a business.	

<b>GL4</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A program is in place to manage a community-wide plan for immigrant inclusion.	
<b>GL4.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program includes processes to regularly assess the needs and priorities of the local immigrant community in each of the categories of this standard and use that feedback to strengthen the plan.	
<b>GL4.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program includes processes to engage cross-sector and diverse stakeholders in the maintenance and implementation of the plan, including stakeholders from the immigrant community and receiving community.	
<b>GL4.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The program includes accountability and learning mechanisms to regularly assess the effectiveness of activities outlined in the plan.	

<b>GL5</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A program(s) is in place to promote and strengthen the capacity of Community Based Organizations working on immigrant inclusion.	

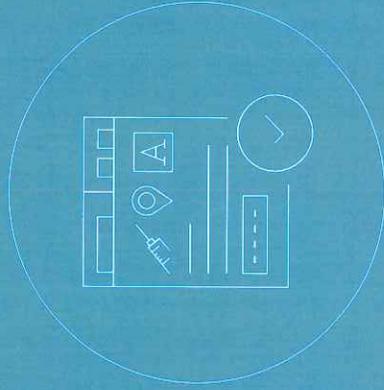
<b>GL6</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A program(s) is in place to promote employing a local government workforce that reflects the diversity of the community.	
<b>GL6.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The program(s) identifies and addresses barriers to inclusive hiring and employee retention including barriers to accessing information on open positions.	

<b>GL7</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A program(s) is in place to advance local and minority, including immigrant, owned business sourcing and contracting.	
<b>GL7.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The program(s) identifies and addresses barriers to sourcing and contracting.	

2.

## EQUITABLE ACCESS

Welcoming communities reduce barriers to services and participation so that opportunities of the community are available to all residents, including immigrants.



## EQUITABLE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

<b>EA1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA4</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	No locally mandated government policies exist where the primary purpose of the policy is to exclude or disenfranchise immigrants.			A partnership program(s) is in place to achieve equitable access to health services for immigrants.	
<b>EA1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA4.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	No locally mandated government codes exist where the primary purpose of the code is to exclude or disenfranchise immigrants.			The partnership program(s) provides information on health insurance options and promotes access to health insurance.	
<b>EA1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA4.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	No locally mandated government policies exist where the primary purpose of the policy is to increase the rate of immigrant detention or deportation.			The partnership program(s) promotes access to health services including treatment, testing, preventative health services, and mental health services.	
<b>EA1.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
	No government policies exist where the primary purpose of the policy is to exclude or disenfranchise immigrants based on other facets of their identity including gender, sexual orientation, race, ability, age, or religion.				
<b>EA1.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA5</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A process(es) is in place to regularly audit and improve local policies and codes to strengthen immigrant inclusion.			A partnership program(s) is in place to achieve equitable access to housing for immigrants.	
<b>EA2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA5.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A program(s) is in place to ensure language access across government agencies with the goal of expanding equitable access to programs, services, and activities.			The partnership program(s) promotes non-discrimination in housing regulations and	
<b>EA2.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>			
	The program(s) assesses and addresses language needs for accessing important community information including safety services and emergency and alert systems.				
<b>EA2.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA6</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The program(s) includes training for staff.			A partnership program(s) is in place to achieve equitable access to transportation for immigrants.	
<b>EA3</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA6.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A process(es) is in place to identify barriers to equitable access to programs and services, and develop partnership programs to address those barriers.			The partnership program(s) promotes affordable transportation services and opportunities.	
<b>EA3.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA7</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	Partnership programs to achieve equitable access provide services that are responsive to diverse cultural practices, languages, and literacy levels.			A partnership program(s) is in place to achieve equitable access to justice for immigrants.	
<b>EA3.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EA7.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	Partnership programs to achieve equitable access address fraudulent services and scams targeting the immigrant community.			The partnership program(s) promotes access to justice in local court proceedings including access to legal advice.	
			<b>EA7.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
				The partnership program(s) promotes conflict resolution strategies such as mediation.	

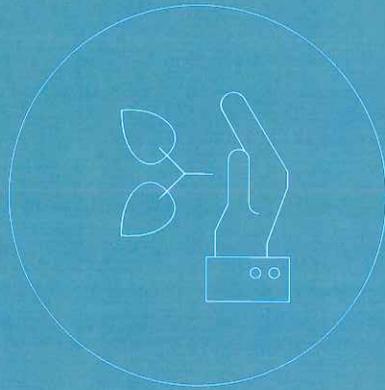
## EQUITABLE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

<b>EA8</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	A comprehensive language access policy is in place that cuts across government agencies.	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>EA8.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	The policy establishes a process(es) to identify essential government services and programs and prioritize language access to those services and programs.	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>EA8.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	The policy includes training for staff on working with diverse populations.	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>

3.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Welcoming communities actively ensure that newcomers fully participate in civic life, including increasing access to leadership, citizenship, and community participation.

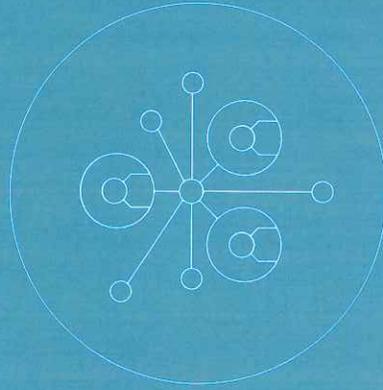


## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

<b>CE1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to develop immigrant knowledge of local government workings and advance immigrant civic engagement.	
<b>CE1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The partnership program(s) provides information on civic engagement opportunities along with general information on the responsibilities of local government.	
<b>CE1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) supports immigrant participation in democratic spaces (i.e. hearings, council meetings).	
<b>CE1.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) supports immigrant participation on commissions and boards, and advances immigrant civic leadership.	
<b>CE2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to support naturalization.	
<b>CE3</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to support eligible immigrants in voting.	
<b>CE3.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) works with relevant local government and state agencies to identify and address barriers to voting for eligible immigrants.	
<b>CE4</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to engage immigrants in community service activities.	
<b>CE5</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to address the unauthorized practice of immigration law and related fraudulent services.	

# 4. **CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

Welcoming communities build relationships between immigrants and longer-term residents.



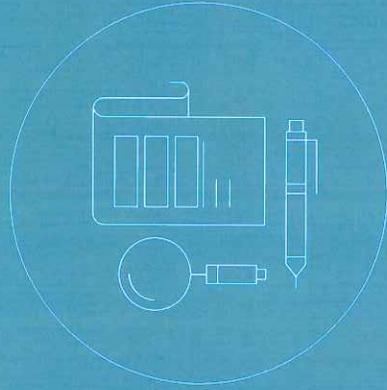
## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES REQUIREMENTS

<b>CC1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to nurture connections between the immigrant community and receiving community.	
<b>CC1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The partnership program(s) brings the immigrant community and receiving community together to work on issues of common interest.	
<b>CC1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The partnership program(s) promotes regular interaction and communication between leaders in the immigrant community and leaders in the receiving community.	
<b>CC1.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) builds relationships between the receiving community and the immigrant community, and supports immigrants in building diverse personal networks.	
<b>CC1.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) includes activities specifically targeted at connecting immigrant and receiving community youth.	
<b>CC2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to promote a welcoming culture through communications activities across diverse media and communications platforms.	
<b>CC2.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The local government has a public proclamation or resolution declaring itself to be a welcoming community.	
<b>CC2.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The local government does not make public statements discouraging immigration or immigrant inclusion.	
<b>CC2.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The local government does not make public statements directly attacking any community on the basis of their religion, ethnicity, race, gender, orientation, or ability.	
<b>CC2.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) prioritizes messaging that communicates the community-wide benefit of immigrant inclusion and a welcoming culture for all residents.	

5.

## EDUCATION

Welcoming communities ensure immigrants have the education they need to succeed in school and the workforce.



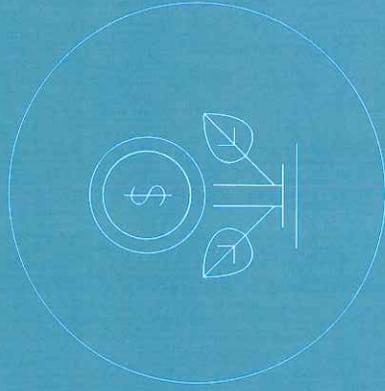
## EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

<b>ED1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to work with the primary and secondary school system(s) to attain more equitable educational outcomes for immigrant students.	
<b>ED1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The partnership program(s) advances immigrant parent engagement in schools and supports immigrant parents in navigating the education system (i.e. provides support with enrollment and information on local school options, resources available to students, and disciplinary procedures).	
<b>ED1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) facilitates immigrant student access to extracurricular or enrichment activities.	
<b>ED1.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) provides information on services such as counseling, financial assistance, and in-state tuition that increase immigrant student access to higher education.	
<b>ED1.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) provides career readiness support for immigrant students.	
<b>ED1.5</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) addresses early learning and primary school readiness for immigrant children.	
<b>ED1.6</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) includes training for educators and staff on teaching and supporting diverse student populations.	
<b>ED2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to advance educational and career opportunities for immigrant adults.	
<b>ED2.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) facilitates access to professional development opportunities.	
<b>ED2.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) supports immigrant access to higher education, technical degrees, certification programs and professional licensing.	
<b>ED2.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The partnership program(s) facilitates credentialing for immigrants.	

6.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Welcoming communities harness the full potential of all residents. Immigrants have the skills and assets to thrive, and economic development systems are prepared to leverage new and existing talent.



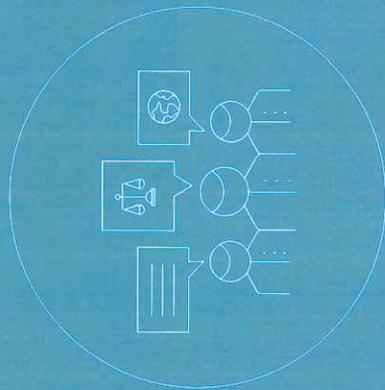
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

<b>EC1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EC4</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>EC1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>	<b>EC4.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>EC1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
<b>EC1.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>	<b>EC5</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>EC1.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
<b>EC2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>	<b>EC6</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>EC2.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
<b>EC2.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
<b>EC2.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
<b>EC2.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			
<b>EC3</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>			
<b>EC3.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>			
<b>EC3.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>			

7.

## SAFE COMMUNITIES

Welcoming communities foster trust and build relationships between immigrants and local law enforcement and safety agencies.



## SAFE COMMUNITIES REQUIREMENTS

<b>SC1</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A program(s) exists to train public safety staff on working with diverse populations.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC1.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program(s) includes training for staff operating emergency response systems under the jurisdiction of the local government.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC1.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program(s) includes law enforcement staff under the jurisdiction of the local government.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC1.3</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program(s) includes code enforcement staff under the jurisdiction of the local government.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC1.4</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The program(s) engages other jurisdictions whose public safety or emergency response systems impact local residents.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC2</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to strengthen relationships and promote regular communication between law and code enforcement agencies and the immigrant community.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC3</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	A partnership program(s) is in place to educate immigrants about their rights and responsibilities under the law.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC3.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The partnership program(s) includes information on immigration law and enforcement.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC3.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CORE</b>
	The partnership program(s) includes information on relevant local codes.	<b>CORE</b>
<b>SC4</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	A policy(ies) is in place to provide safety services in a way that builds trust and relationships between the immigrant community and relevant agencies.	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>SC4.1</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The policy addresses victim services.	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
<b>SC4.2</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>
	The policy covers code enforcement.	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>

## DEFINITIONS

To simplify the requirements, the Welcoming Standard uses some shorthand. The following key terms refer to larger concepts:

### ■ programs:

The Welcoming Standard uses programs to refer to government-driven efforts. Programs do not need to be stand alone initiatives. The goal set by a program requirement will likely be achieved through coordinated activities of a number of different government agencies.

### ■ partnership programs:

The Welcoming Standard uses partnership programs to refer to efforts achieved through partnership with other organizations or governments. Like programs, partnership programs do not need to be stand alone initiatives, and will likely be achieved through coordinated activities of a number of different agencies and organizations. Local government may or may not be the lead on the work of partnership programs.

### ■ immigrant inclusion work:

Immigrant inclusion work refers to the activities and goals outlined in the Welcoming Standard as a whole.

### ■ immigrants, immigrant community, immigration:

In the Welcoming Standard the term immigrant refers to all foreign-born individuals and their children. This includes individuals of any immigration status (including refugees) and those residing in the county on non-immigrant visas (such as H1-B) unless specifically noted otherwise.

Immigrant community and immigration have similarly broad definitions.

### ■ receiving community:

Receiving community refers to all residents of a city or county not covered under the definition of immigrant including previous generations of immigrants and native communities.

### ■ local government:

Local government refers to the entity adopting the Welcoming Standard—currently the Standard is designed for city and county governments. In the context of communications requirements under the Connected Communities section, local government refers to the executive elected official in the government — for example the mayor or county executive — and the primary elected body as a whole — for example the city council as a whole or the full board of alderman.

IV.  
CERTIFIED  
WELCOMING



**PURPOSE**

Certified Welcoming is an innovative program that assesses city and county governments on their efforts to include and welcome immigrants. Communities that meet the Welcoming Standard earn the title of Certified Welcoming and showcase their 21st Century community to the world. Certified communities distinguish their local efforts, build competitive advantage, and gain access to opportunities to share their certified welcoming practices on a regional, national and global stage.

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## EARNING CERTIFICATION

Certification is based on compliance with the Welcoming Standard. The criteria in the Standard are divided into two categories: Core and Additional.

Core criteria are the baseline for certification. All core criteria must be met in order for a community to be Certified Welcoming.

Additional criteria are good practice for welcoming communities. Points are awarded for each additional criteria met. These points are added up to provide an overall score to each community and provide a guide for continued improvement and innovation.

## THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The certification process formally evaluates and assesses local government efforts to provide an inclusive place for all. Candidates for certification complete an application, self-assessment, evaluative site visit, and receive a detailed final report that identifies local strengths and provides a road map for areas of growth.

**Application:** To start the certification process, local governments must first complete a short application form. The eleven question form covers basic information including budget, structure, and oversight. Applicants and Welcoming America also sign into a confidentiality agreement and a certification contract during the application phase.

**Self-Assessment:** Once their application is processed, local governments receive a detailed self-assessment form. This form guides each applicant through the Welcoming Standard asking whether and how the community meets each requirement.

**Audit:** After the self-assessment is submitted, an audit is scheduled with the local government applicant. The audit, which usually lasts two days, provides an opportunity for Certified Welcoming to answer questions about the self-assessment and meet with local leaders and partners. Local governments learn the findings of the audit, including their certification score, during a closing meeting on the final day.

**Report:** A detailed report is shared with each local government after the audit. The report identifies areas of strength, including areas where the community is a national leader, and key areas of continued growth.

**Certification:** Communities that meet all core requirements based on the audit are issued a certificate. Local governments that don't meet core requirements based on the audit develop and submit a plan of action. They then have four months to implement the plan and meet core requirements.

**Appeals:** Local governments, partners, or community members that strongly disagree with audit or certification decisions can appeal the findings.



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## TIMELINE

Certificates of Certified Welcoming are valid for three years. Local governments will need to undergo at least one additional audit, continue to meet core requirements, and improve their score on additional requirements in order to renew their certificate after each 3 year period.

## COSTS

\$100 – application fee  
(applied to certification fee, nonrefundable)

\$12,000- \$6,000 – certification fee

(In 2017 the program fee will be discounted by 50%.  
Audit results are valid for 3 years.)

## FURTHER INFORMATION / CONTACT

For questions about the Welcoming Standard or Certified Welcoming, contact [certified@welcomingamerica.org](mailto:certified@welcomingamerica.org)

Learn more at [www.certifiedwelcoming.org](http://www.certifiedwelcoming.org)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These field leaders supported Welcoming America in developing the initial draft of the Welcoming Standard. Their expertise and commitment to excellence was invaluable to the development of the Welcoming Standard and the Certified Welcoming program.

### ADVISORY BOARD (2015-16)

- **Amanda Bergson-Shilcock**, Senior Policy Analyst, National Skills Coalition
- **Melissa Bertolo**, Welcome Dayton Program Coordinator, Human Relations Council, City of Dayton, OH
- **Sayu Bhajiwani**, Founder & President, New American Leaders Project
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- **Steve Choi**, Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition
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- **Isha Lee**, Chief Network Officer, Welcoming America
- **Diana Llachiondo**, Director of Community Partnerships, Office of the Mayor, City of Boise, ID

### CONTENT EXPERTS (2015-16)

- **Silvia Garcia Barnechea**, Happiness Institute Global Director, Coca-Cola
  - **Raul Gonzalez**, Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
  - **David Lubell**, Executive Director, Welcoming America
  - **Suzette Brooks Masters**, Program Director, Migration, J.M. Kaplan Fund
  - **Margie McHugh**, Director, National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, Migration Policy Institute
  - **Ratna Omidvar**, Executive Director and Adjunct Professor, Global Diversity Exchange, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University
  - **Dr. Manuel Pastor**, Co-Director, USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration
  - **Mary Stagaman**, Executive Director, Agenda 360, Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce
  - **Dane Stangler**, Vice President of Research and Policy, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
  - **Stephanic Teatro**, Co-Executive Director, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
  - **Dan Wallace**, Director, State and Local Initiatives, Partnership for a New American Economy
- Welcoming America partnered with Felipe Arango and Nidhi Krishen of BSD Consulting on the technical development of the Welcoming Standard and Certified Welcoming program.



# Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

Committee of the Whole  
Welcoming Kalamazoo County  
May 16, 2017

[WelcomingMichigan.org](http://WelcomingMichigan.org)

 [WelcomingMichigan](https://www.facebook.com/WelcomingMichigan)  [Welcoming\\_MI](https://twitter.com/Welcoming_MI)



## Welcoming Michigan

Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

- Immigrant integration initiative of Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- Statewide effort started in 2012
- Foster mutual respect among foreign-born and U.S.-born Michiganders
- Partner with community-based organizations & local governments
- Member of Welcoming America, network of 80+



WELCOMING AMERICA 

 *Building a Nation of Neighbors*

## The Big Picture

- Federal
  - Immigration Law
  - Executive Orders
  - Refugee Resettlement
- State
  - Michigan Office for New Americans
  - Drivers Licenses, Relicensing, Access to Benefits
- Local 
  - Language Access, County ID, Community Policing
  - Naturalization Workshops
  - Welcoming Cities & Counties

## Changing Communities



## How Do People Get Here?

### Non-Immigrant Visas

- Tourist
- Student

### Immigrant Visas

- Work
- Family
- Humanitarian



## Local Foreign-born Population

Municipality	% Foreign-Born	# Foreign-Born	*LEP % of total population
<b>Kalamazoo County</b>	4.7	12,232	2.3
Naturalized	42	5,095	
Entered 2010 or later	18.4	2,219	
<b>Kalamazoo</b>	5.5	4,182	3.8
Naturalized	36.4	1,724	
Entered 2010 or later	15.1	718	
<b>Portage</b>	4.8	2,312	1.0
Naturalized	50.4	1,189	
Entered 2010 or later	5.3	125	

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 5 year estimates

\*Percent who speak English less than "very well"

Top LEP languages for Kalamazoo County: Spanish, Arabic

## Kalamazoo County Immigrants

Foreign-born: 20% Latino, 36% Asian, 10% Black, 48% White

9% age 0-17 yrs, 77% age 18-64 yrs, 14% age 65+

**86% of children in MI with immigrant parents are U.S. citizens**

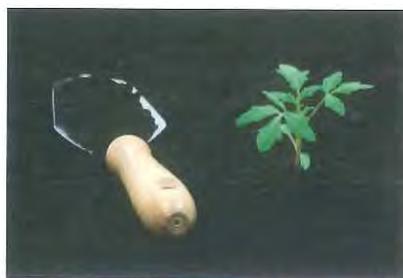


Mexico	1,361
China	1,065
India	806
Philippines	634
Canada	630
Saudi Arabia	457
U.K.	444
Pakistan	439
Germany	407
Korea	394



*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015 5-year estimates*

## Engaging Receiving Communities



A welcoming community  
not only supports immigrants directly,  
but helps long-time residents understand,  
contribute to, and benefit from  
immigrant integration.

## Who is the Receiving Community?

- Neighbors & loved ones
- Long-time residents
- May be very diverse
- Immigrants themselves
- May have conscious or unconscious fear or bias toward immigrants, or are simply ambivalent
- Elected officials, municipal staff, and community-based organizations



## Welcoming Communities

- **Engage** both U.S.-born & foreign-born residents in creating a welcoming atmosphere
- **Build relationships** & mutual respect among longtime residents & newcomers
- **Collaborate** across sectors
- Newcomers are able to fully **integrate**, participate, contribute to the social, cultural, economic fabric of the community



**Welcoming Michigan**  
Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

# Welcoming Communities

## The Welcoming Community Curve



## Welcoming Cities & Counties

- Locally-driven efforts to create inclusive communities
- Improve quality of life & economic potential for immigrants and non-immigrants alike
- 17 Michigan localities have joined national cohort of 80+
  - Detroit
  - Grand Rapids
  - Lansing
  - Hamtramck
  - Kalamazoo
  - East Lansing
  - Macomb County
  - Kalamazoo County
  - Meridian Twp
  - Sterling Heights
  - Clinton Twp
  - West Bloomfield Twp
  - Royal Oak
  - Huntington Woods
  - Ferndale
  - Ann Arbor
  - Battle Creek



## Welcoming Community Agenda



### Welcoming Cities & Counties

- **PLAN:** Government, business, non-profit, and faith sectors work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.
  - Example: Welcome Dayton Plan, Chicago New Americans Plan, NYC Blueprint
- **COMMIT and SUSTAIN:** Enact new policies & practices to support increased access and inclusion
  - Example: Language Access Policy, Public Safety Policies, Entrepreneur Support
- **COMMUNICATE:** Messages of unity and shared values permeate community through media, voice of leaders, and among residents.
  - Example: Welcoming Ambassadors & Positive Media Communications
- **BUILD COMMUNITY:** Newcomers and long-time residents are engaged to find common ground and shared leadership.
  - Example: Public engagement & dialogue events

## Welcoming Cities & Counties

- **PARTNER** with local non-profits and immigrant & ethnic community organizations
- **COLLABORATE** across sectors: faith, education, health, public safety, chamber of commerce



## Macomb County

- Journey to embrace changing demographics
- Race, ethnicity, bias training for staff & department heads
- Improving hiring practices for multilingual applicants & people of color
- Invested in video interpretation services
- Hosts citizenship workshops & naturalization ceremonies
- Created Welcome Center in County admin building
- Launched Community Partners Group convened by County



## Community Building Activities

- Education & Training
  - Race & Diversity
  - Immigration 101
- Resident Storytelling
  - Journey stories video project
  - Get To Know Your Neighbors
- Arts & Culture
  - Mural painting
  - Multicultural celebration
- Dialogue
  - Youth dialogues on diversity
  - Film screening & discussion
- Food
  - Community potluck
  - Multicultural cooking classes
- Community clean-up or service project
- Celebration weeks/months e.g. Hispanic Heritage Month, Caribbean American Heritage Month, National Welcoming Week



## Is Your Community Welcoming?

- Municipal activities include residents from **all backgrounds**
- **Inclusive** spaces, atmosphere, policies:
  - Welcoming signs & posters
  - Language access: translation or interpretation
- Build **relationships**, form **partnerships** with immigrant and ethnic communities
- **Participate** in community meetings led by immigrant serving organizations
- **Recognize** contributions of immigrant community members: students, businesses, volunteers, etc.
- **Share** opportunities with immigrant & ethnic communities (job, board, commission postings)
- **Host** a film screening & dialogue, staff training, naturalization or know your rights workshop
- Ensure **cultural competency**



WELCOMING  
AMERICA



## NATIONAL WELCOMING WEEK

Connecting Neighbors, Serving Communities September 15-24, 2017



**WelcomingWeek.org**

*Join the Welcoming Movement!*

Get involved: [WelcomingMichigan.org](http://WelcomingMichigan.org)

Like us:  Welcoming Michigan

Follow us:  @Welcoming\_MI

### Contact:

Meagan Roche  
Welcoming Michigan  
Communities Coordinator  
[mroche@michiganimmigrant.org](mailto:mroche@michiganimmigrant.org)  
Tel: 269-220-0492 Ext. 538



**Welcoming Michigan**  
Building Immigrant Friendly Communities

**RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF SHUTTING DOWN  
ENBRIDGE LINE 5 PIPELINE UNDER THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC**

WHEREAS, Line 5 is a set of twin, 64-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge that carry light crude oil and natural gas under the Straits of Mackinac; and

WHEREAS, the currents in the Straits of Mackinac at peak volumetric transport can be more than 10 times greater than the flow of Niagara Falls and switch bi-directionally from east to west every few days and according to a 2014 University of Michigan study is the “worst possible place” for an oil spill in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world’s fresh, available, surface water and are a drinking water source for over 35 million people; and

WHEREAS, one out of every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, tourism is one of Michigan’s largest income industries bringing in billions of visitor dollars spent each year; and

WHEREAS, agriculture, fisheries, shipping and industry depend on the health of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Great Lakes were linked to over 1.5 million jobs, with Michigan accounting for 35 percent of those jobs; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has a concerning track record that includes 1,244 reportable spills, leaks and releases from 1996 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge was in violation of spacing requirements of its 1953 easement for Line 5 in 2014 and were responsible for a pinhole leak in a section of the pipeline north of the Straits in December 2014; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge was responsible for one of the worst and most expensive oils spills in U.S. history when Line 6b ruptured near Kalamazoo in 2010 allowing almost 1 million gallons of tar sands oil to leak for 17 hours before shutting down the line; and

WHEREAS, corrosion is the number one reason that pipelines fail; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was adopted so it didn’t have to obtain a permit and ensure that the pipeline wouldn’t pose a threat to the waters or the public’s use of the waters; and

WHEREAS, Michigan’s Attorney General has stated (in regards to Line 5) that the “pipeline wouldn’t be built today” and that “the pipeline’s days are numbered”; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Commandant testified before congress in 2015 that the Coast Guard would be unable to respond effectively to an open water oil spill in the heart of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, there is no plan for how to recover oil if there was a leak during the winter when the lakes are covered with ice; and

WHEREAS, as Michiganders we have a responsibility to be wise stewards of the waters of our state for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Michigan's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restore degraded environments after the fact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 3rd day of May 2017, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners supports stopping the transportation of oil under the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners supports shutting down Line 5 and the flow of oil under the Great Lakes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners will send a copy of this resolution to Governor Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette and Kalamazoo County's delegation to the Michigan Legislature, U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, calling on them to take swift action to shut down Line 5.

STATE OF MICHIGAN     )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO     )

I, Timothy A. Snow, County Clerk/Register for the County of Kalamazoo, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners at a regular session held on May 16, 2017.

.....  
Timothy A. Snow  
County Clerk/Register