



City of Grand Haven

November 5, 2015

Honorable Amanda Price
Representative-89th District
Michigan House of Representatives
N-1193 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: HB 4423-4427

Dear Representative Price:

Enclosed is a resolution passed by the Grand Haven City Council at their regular meeting held on November 2, 2015.

This package, and some testimony given at the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, appear to be based on a premise that local units set speed limits to "trick" motorists into driving too fast in an effort to enhance local revenue streams (the speed trap argument). This notion is patently offensive. We set and enforce speed limits to protect the public safety, period. Please consider:

- In our most recent fiscal year in Grand Haven, we spent \$3,745,855 on Public Safety services. We collected \$6,421 in speeding fines or .17% of the Public Safety budget.
- On an average speeding fine of \$100, the City receives just \$25, less than it costs to write the ticket and account for the revenue.

The proposition that we have "speed traps" to drive revenue is preposterous. It is less than one-fifth of one percent of the Public Safety budget and it is unprofitable. It would be an upside down business case.

The people of Grand Haven count on us to pay attention to unsafe conditions and set reasonable speed limits accordingly. All studies supporting the 85th percentile recognize that *context* is also an important consideration when setting safe speed limits. Please strenuously oppose this set of speed limit bills.

Sincerely,

Pat McGinnis
City Manager

c: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Senator Arlan Meekhof
John LaMacchia, Legislative Associate, Michigan Municipal League
City Council

Resolution Opposing House Bills 4423-4427

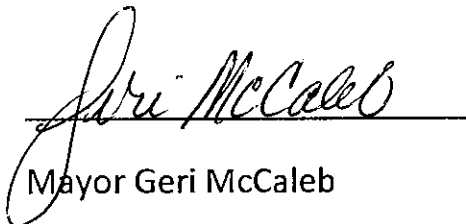
Whereas the Michigan House of Representatives is considering the above legislation that would dramatically impact the ability of local units to set safe and context sensitive speed limits within their municipal boundaries, and

Whereas traffic safety is among the most dire and significant services provided to local citizens by local government, and

Whereas the 85th percentile approach to setting speed limits is a useful and rational tool to help understand speeds on local streets, but it is not absolute dogma to be forced upon local jurisdictions in the State of Michigan, and

Whereas each community is best suited to understand local conditions that place children, disabled, senior and other vulnerable populations in harm's way, and any attempt to diminish our safety is seen as a serious threat to our ability to preserve local safety.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Grand Haven City Council implores our State Senator Arlan Meekhof, State Representative Amanda Price and all the members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to reject the onslaught on local control of speed limits and restore our reasonable capacity to set and monitor speed limits on local streets.



Mayor Geri McCaleb