

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Matt Koleszar
Michigan House of Representatives
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: A request for your support of HB 5430 to expand the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit

Dear Representative Koleszar:

As an historic architect in the State of Michigan, I know that the owners of historic buildings in Michigan greatly benefitted from the state historic preservation tax credit available from 1999-2011 when they completed restoration work on income-producing and residential properties. It was a highly successful program with each \$1.00 of credit leveraging \$10.56 in direct economic impact. Public Act 343 of 2020 reinstated the credit but with a \$5M annual cap making the program. The need for these funds is so great, and this amount was so small that it was committed to the first applicants almost immediately. House Bill 5430 will correct this by raising the cap to \$100M and making other changes to reach a wider constituency. I am writing to ask your support of HB 5430.

Historic preservation is important in so many ways. It provides employment and additional investment, so it is an economic boon. It creates a sense of place and belonging in a community, by preserving the places where important events occurred in our lives. It is also environmentally sound, preventing demolition materials from ending up in landfills, and using existing structures so additional building supplies do not have to be manufactured, saving energy. Rehabilitating buildings can also provide badly needed housing units for our state.

The success of preservation includes keeping traditional downtowns and neighborhoods vital. In addition to attracting both young professionals and retirees – and everyone in between – these authentic, walkable places are cultural centers for their regions and heritage tourism destinations. In every case, valuable real estate is back on local and state tax rolls.

Please support HB 5430. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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