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May 3, 2016

Governor Rick Snyder
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder,

The Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) is a private-public partnership in Marquette County, Michigan whose mission is focused on the promotion and advancement of economic and community development. We are an Accredited Economic Development Organization through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and serve as Marquette County's leading resource for economic development. The LSCP is committed to facilitating job creation, retaining existing business, assisting with business growth and attracting new businesses to our region. Our partner businesses, 500 strong, are committed to this mission through the investment of time and resources.

Coming from a county where the Dark Store issue has affected us greatly, the LSCP is pleased to support House Bill 5578. This issue has impacted our local municipalities, fire services, veteran services, senior services, our Iron Ore Heritage Trail, public library, roads and schools. All of these assets are critical, making Marquette County stand out against our competition in economic development. This bill will ensure taxpayer fairness so no one sector isn't overburdened by the cost of maintaining the level of services the community expects.

For the past 3 years, the current process which allows for closed or vacant stores to be used as comparables, has cost Michigan municipalities approximately \$100 million. This bill does not take away a business's ability to dispute or appeal their assessments as. It is important that there be a mechanism in place for doing so. We strongly believe the process must be such that the end result is fair and equitable for all and that there is a place in the community for all types, sectors and sizes of business.

On behalf of Lake Superior Community Partnership, I urge you to signed HB 5578 should it reach your desk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Clickner".

Amy Clickner, CEcD, CFRM
CEO, Lake Superior Community Partnership

Cc: Senator Tom Casperson
Representative John Kivela
Representative Scott Dianda
Representative Lee Chatfield
Representative Ed McBroom
Representative Jeff Farrington
Representative David Maturen
Representative Pat Somerville
Representative Ken Yonker
Representative Martin Howrylak
Representative Gary Glenn
Representative Brandt Iden
Representative Michael Webber
Representative Jim Townsend

Representative Paul Clemente
Representative Bill LaVoy
Representative Wendell Byrd