



Michigan Association OF County Treasurers

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To: State of Michigan Senate

From: Michigan Association of County Treasurers (MACT)

RE: HB 4730 (2021)

Dear Senators,

The Michigan Association of County Treasurers is opposed to HB 4730. We do not believe this legislation strengthens public records law. We believe it undermines the integrity of operations within County Treasurer and County Register of Deeds offices across the state, and reduces the revenues needed to fund operations within these important public offices. Current legislation, crafted in 2015 with strong support of the Michigan Association of County Treasurers and the Michigan Realtors Association, has proven very effective in providing public tax records.

HB 4730 would force county treasurers to comply with record requests for information that is not statutorily held within their offices. County treasurers hold and collect “delinquent” tax records, not “current tax” records. Current tax records are held by local units of government. HB 4730 would hamstring county treasurer operations with inordinate amounts of staff time and expense for the collection of data and do so with insufficient compensation. This unfairly places the expense of data collection that would benefit for-profit corporations squarely on the backs of individual taxpayers.

The data affected by HB 4730 is already provided by public offices free of charge to taxpayers of record, and at low cost to others. State legislation to benefit a singular corporation, in this case Zillow, is not necessary.

It is the duty of County Treasurers and Registers of Deeds to protect the interests of taxpayers. That is why this legislative proposal is opposed by the Michigan Association of County Treasurers, the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds, and several other groups of county level and locally elected officials. County treasurers across the state firmly believe in transparency in government affairs but would hope it does not come at the expense of individual taxpayers.

We appreciate your leadership and hope that you consider our position.

Bob Robinson, ACPFIM

MACT President

Eaton County Treasurer