Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Like many others here, I am **concerned about the potential impact of Bills 429, 430, and 431.** These bills, if enacted, would significantly restrict the ability of our township’s elected and appointed officials to oversee permitting and monitoring of gravel mining operations in Cambridge Township. **I am urging you to vote NO on these bills.**

**At the least, these bills are unnecessary.** Our elected and appointed officials have demonstrated that they are capable of fairly and diligently managing the permitting, licensing and oversight of established aggregate mines in my township to the benefit of an existing aggregate mine operator and for the safety of local residents. In fact, Cambridge Township Planning Board is currently evaluating an application for a conditional use permit which would allow mining extraction between three beautiful lakes in The Irish Hills, namely Meadow, Allen and Kelly Lakes south of US-12. This is a chain of lakes, with potential impacts from Wolf to Cambridge Lake and beyond.

Furthermore, the Michigan Aggregate Association claims the state needs more gravel, but as you know, this is far from proven:

• The State of Michigan currently exports more gravel than any other state, which could indicate it has a surplus

• Michigan is one of the few states that has not conducted a geological study to determine where the State’s aggregate resources exist

• The mining industry has repeatedly stated Michigan will run out of gravel unless more mines are opened, yet it has repeatedly used a debunked and discredited report to do so.

• And, in any case, no company should profit at the expense of a community’s health, safety, environment, or property values.

**At their worst, these bills jeopardize the health, safety, well-being, and property values of residents by placing the responsibility for oversight with an understaffed agency that is based hours away.** Remember that nearly every resident and business in this township relies on private wells, making it imperative that oversight of mining operations be local and response to violation immediate.

As noted by the Michigan Township Association:

* Sand and gravel mining operations are a local issue that impact a community, its residents, its businesses and property owners.
* No two communities are alike.
* State government doesn’t know our community, its interests and concerns, and how best to protect us.
* This legislation would have lasting detrimental consequences in Michigan communities for decades to come.
* **The bills unfairly favors the aggregate industry, putting profit over people, to the detriment of our residents, schools and the environment.**

**We urge you to vote NO to SB 429-431.**

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

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Printed Address