TO: SENATOR CASPERSON & COMMITTEE 2/28/12

COMMENTS PREPARED FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON A REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN, OR SENATE BILLS 909, 910, AND 911.

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF SB 909 TO CREATE A REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY IN SE MICHIGAN.

I AM HOWEVER CONCERNED THAT THE LARGEST TRANSIT RIDERSHIP BASE, DETROITERS, ARE REPRESENTED BY A MERE 1/9TH OF A VOTE ON THE PROPOSED BOARD. I SUPPORT A MINIMUM OF TWO DEDICATED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITY OF DETROIT, POTENTIALLY WITH ONE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY DET. CITY COUNCIL IN ADDITION TO A MAYORAL APPOINTEE.

FURTHERMORE I PROPOSE THAT WHERE POSSIBLE A SIMPLE MAJORITY REPLACE PREFERENCE FOR UNANIMOUS AND SUPER MAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENTS, WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO HAMPER DEVELOPMENT OF A ROBUST TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR THE SE MICHIGAN REGION.

I SUPPORT AN AMMENDMENT TO INCLUDE PONTIAC ALONG A WOODWARD RAPID TRANSIT ROUTE.

I AM IN SUPPORT OF SB 910 TO FACILITATE ZONING AND RIGHT OF WAY CLEARANCE FOR FUTURE WORK OF THE PROPOSED RTA.

I AM IN SUPPORT OF SB 911 TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A POTENTIAL RTA BY MEANS OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES.

I CONCUR WITH TRANSPORTATION RIDERS UNITED THAT FUNDS RAISED VIA PROPOSED MOTOR VEHICLE FEES OR OTHER MECHANISMS BE USED AS BEST NEEDED FOR THE REGION, AND NOT MANDATED DIRECTLY TO COUNTIES PARTY TO THE RTA.

THANK YOU,

HANNAH KELLEY
RESIDENT, CITY OF DETROIT