DetroitRegionalChamber

April 9, 2013

The Honorable Wayne Schmidt
Chair, House Transportation Committee
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Schmidt:

The Detroit Regional Chamber represents over 20,000 members and affiliates ranging from sole proprietors to Fortune 500 companies. Our mission is to "Power the economy of Southeast Michigan." We have recently been made aware of legislation pending before your committee that was introduced by Rep. John Walsh at the request of one of our members.

House Bill 4254 would allow Andre's Carriage Tours to operate statewide. Andre's Carriage Tours has retrofitted a horse drawn carriage by adding an electric motor. This allows them to offer the service and ambience of a carriage ride without the horses, which are often not allowed at certain sites. Andre's Carriage Tours has asked for legislation which would exempt them from vehicle registration since they are not an automobile and are used for events and other recreational purposes. The Chamber supports this bill because we believe that these types of attractions are beneficial not only for downtown Detroit, but the region and state as a whole.

In short, we believe that allowing this business to expand statewide is good for our region and good for Michigan. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bradley G. Williams
Vice President, Government Relations

Cc: Rep. John Walsh
Andre Ducharme