

**Written Testimony of Chong-Anna Canfora for the Senate Committee on  
Finance, 5/3/2016**

My name is Chong-Anna Canfora, I am a long-time resident of Lansing and I have been a board member of the INGHAM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for 6 years and I am currently the Chairperson of the Board.

In our role as the county EDC, we are charged with working with local officials and businesses to attract new jobs to the county.

I'll start by saying something that may come as a surprise, coming from an economic development official: I do not support handing out tax abatements willy-nilly to every developer and business that asks for one.

I strive to be conservative when it comes to that.

We need to keep a close eye on taxpayer dollars, and every project must be scrutinized very carefully.

I believe in the principles of local control. As such, I strongly believe that local governments should exercise more oversight over these tax abatements.

That's because taxpayers, who are already stretched thin, should get the best bang for the buck with their hard-earned resources.

On September 11, 2015 the Ingham EDC passed a Resolution Urging the Michigan Legislature to Allow Greater Local Control over Public Act 328 Tax Exemptions.

The Ingham County Economic Development Corporation believes that local tax exemptions are useful tools for communities to encourage economic development, but it is important that local governments have control over these abatements, including revocation, to ensure businesses hold up their end of a deal.

House Bill 4580 would give local governments the same authority to revoke PA 328 exemptions as they do with other local tax exemptions, when recipients of such exemptions fail to abide by the agreed-upon terms.

I urge the Michigan Legislature to pass HB 4580, which would provide local officials more control over Public Act 328 tax exemptions and allow increased accountability for recipients of such tax exemptions.