



THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Senator Dale Zorn  
Chairman, Senate Local Government  
Farnum Building, Room 710  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Subject: HB 5163

Dear Senator Zorn,

I am writing in support of HB 5163, which was introduced by Rep. Kurt Heise and passed by the Michigan House on February 10, 2016. Transferring funds and receivables in the Urban Land Assembly Loan Fund to the Land Bank Fast Track Fund is an important step in allowing communities the opportunity to more easily cultivate resources and develop businesses in ways that they believe are beneficial.

In my own 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District, I've observed economic development opportunities that could be bolstered by the Lank Bank Fast Track Fund. Along with Representative Heise's office and representatives from Northville Township, Plymouth Township, and Wayne County, I've been engaged in an economic development effort to repurpose nearly 800 acres of primarily former prison properties in the state. One of these properties, the 100+ acre former DeHoCo prison property in Plymouth Township, in its contaminated and unusable condition, is an impediment to further economic development in the area. If the Land Bank were provided the necessary resources to commence demolition and environmental clean-up of this property, it would help this project immensely and bring additional investment and employment to the area.

Furthermore, HB 5163 would allow businesses throughout the state to more easily obtain title to land and property that would catalyze their development. I would encourage and support the organization of a Senate Local Government Committee hearing on HB 5163, so that legislators can become better informed of this important legislation and the positive impact it would have in our state.

Sincerely,

Patrick Colbeck  
State Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> District