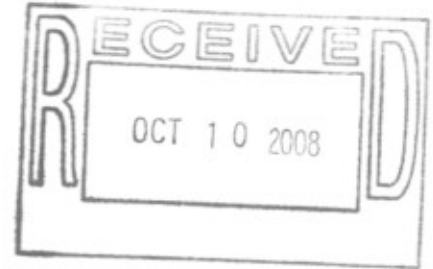




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VISION: We are the leader in innovative, customer-centered government.

MISSION: To continually improve public services that enhance the community for citizens and future generations of St. Clair County

October 6, 2008

Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-3400

Honorable Jennifer Granholm:

The House recently passed HJR III without any discussion or debate. This bill will cost local governments hundreds of millions in lost revenue and therefore a huge reduction in local services for your constituents.

HJR III states the Taxable Value of a piece of property may not increase in any year that the State Equalized Value for that parcel decreases. It further states that if the State Equalized Value increases by less than the rate of inflation, the taxable value cannot increase by more than that percentage. This legislation will change Proposal A without any concurrent proposal to balance the impact on local revenues and services.

Local governments continue to take the brunt of the tough economy and have been hurt the most by state cuts and unfunded mandates. Property taxes are steadily declining and the rate of foreclosures are increasing within St. Clair County. This loss of revenue has already resulted in a deficit of greater than \$3 million. The legislation in addition to the already declining revenue stream would cripple our County and require a cut in services.

On behalf of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners, I am requesting that you please reconsider this legislation and look for comprehensive solutions that will not endanger the services your constituents have come to expect.

Sincerely,

Wallace Evans
Chairperson

cc: Senator Jud Gilbert
Representative Daniel Acciavatti
Representative Philip Pavlov
Representative John Espinoza
Michigan Association of Counties