



Rick Stathakis
Township Supervisor

52700 Van Dyke Avenue
Shelby Township, MI 48316-3572
Phone (586) 731-5154
Fax (586) 726-9370
rstathakis@shelbytwp.org
www.shelbytwp.org

Aug. 11, 2014

Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Repeal of section 205(2) of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act

Dear Governor Snyder:

As conservatives, we know the value of empowering those local officials closest to the people in our communities who have entrusted us with representing their concerns and beliefs as well as the safety of their families.

This is why I am asking that you take the immediate action to repeal section 205(2) of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act that strips local government of its most basic ability to protect the lives, safety and property of our residents.

Recently, an oil well was permitted in the heart of one of Shelby Township's prized residential neighborhoods near Stony Creek Metropark and some of our finest and most picturesque hike and bike trails. The only knowledge of this impending cloud over our community was a singular email from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that it was "reviewing" a permit for oil exploration. There was no follow-up on either the review or that the permit was being granted.

Since the state of Michigan and our elected representatives saw fit to strip the Township Board of Trustees and our officials in the Planning and Zoning and Police departments of protecting our residents, I was hopeful that these same representatives would take the necessary steps to ensure a major oil exploration project would not take place a few hundred feet from the cherished homes of our residents and your constituents.

Now I see the flaw in thinking that state officials from the MDEQ would provide the necessary oversight to ensure property values just now recovering from the recent economic collapse were not further harmed by these unnecessary actions. This is just further proof that bigger, centralized government does **NOT** work on any level.

This is why I am asking you for two steps to bring our government bodies back together for the good of the people. First I would like immediate steps taken to repeal section 205(2) of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. Without this cumbersome expansion of government, this entire situation and all associated hardships would have been avoided.

Second, I would like to meet with you in Lansing with members of our Township directly impacted by this law, so you can see the faces associated with the hardships it has caused and work to provide them with assurance that their government has not turned its back on them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Stathakis, Supervisor
Charter Township of Shelby

CC: Shelby Township Board of Trustees
State Senator Jack Brandenburg
State Representative Jeff Farrington
State Representative Peter Lund
Peter J. Lucido
Robert Murphy

Rick Stathakis
Supervisor

Stanley T. Grot
Clerk

Michael Flynn
Treasurer

Paula C. Filar
Trustee

Nick Nightingale
Trustee

Paul Viar
Trustee

Douglas C. Wozniak
Trustee