



May 1, 2024

Speaker Joe Tate
Michigan House of Representatives
100 North Capitol Avenue
Capitol Building – Room 164
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Delivered Via Email to: joetate@house.mi.gov

Re: Proposed Updates to the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit

Dear Speaker Tate,

Midtown Detroit, Inc. (MDI) would like to express its support for the proposed updates to the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credits. As a non-profit organization committed to fostering community and economic development in the Midtown and New Center areas of Detroit, MDI recognizes the immense value and impact this bill could have on our neighborhood, city, and state.

Midtown and New Center are home to 14 Historic Districts, along with numerous individual historic sites like Orchestra Hall and the Fisher Building. Yet, despite the careful restoration of some structures, many others remain vacant and abandoned. In today's market, the restoration of these buildings often faces financial barriers that make it challenging to bring them up to modern standards while preserving their unique architectural characteristics. The updated Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit presents an opportunity to change this.

Further, MDI has consistently championed the preservation of the rich history within our district. In the past we have collaborated with developers to rehabilitate long-vacant structures while preserving their historic charm, saving buildings like Forest Arms and the Strathmore apartments. Additionally, we maintain a close working relationship with Detroit's Historic Designation Advisory Board to ensure that new developments uphold the character of our historic neighborhoods. Further tax credits for historic preservation will greatly assist in our work to support growth while protecting our legacy.

We firmly believe that the increased funding and expanded scope outlined in the proposed updates to the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit will significantly bolster the redevelopment efforts in Midtown, New Center, and Detroit, while also creating opportunities across the state. We are thrilled to see that this bill effectively supports both preservation and development initiatives, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impacts it will generate across our city and state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen L. Stapleton".

Maureen L. Stapleton, MOD
Interim Executive Director
Midtown Detroit, Inc. &
Former State Representative