

April 17, 2024

Letter in support of HB 5430 on Behalf of the Conference on Michigan Archaeology

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as the current President of the Conference on Michigan Archaeology (CoMA), the organization of professional archaeologists living and working in Michigan, on behalf of the members of our organization to relate our strong support of Michigan House Bill 5430.

The financial incentive the State Historic Tax Credit Program provides is often a critical success factor in historic preservation projects, and the expansion of the tax credit incentive currently authorized by the State Historic Tax Credit Program is expected to significantly increase the number and impact of historic preservation projects in our state. This will lead to better outcomes for property owners, preservationists, and the people of our state in general. Michigan has greatly benefitted from the state historic preservation tax credit program available from 1999-2011. According to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, that program leveraged \$71 M in credits to generate \$1.46 B of investment in rehabilitation projects, leveraged \$251 M in federal tax credits that brought back federal dollars that would not otherwise have returned to the state, created 36,000 jobs, and resulted in each \$1.00 of credit leveraging \$10.56 in direct economic impact.

At a general meeting of the CoMA membership on April 13, 2024, the membership voted unanimously to support this bill. On their behalf, I now urge your support for this bill to better serve the interests of all Michigan residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Chenoweth", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John M. Chenoweth, PhD, RPA
President, Conference on Michigan Archaeology (2023-2025)