

**COUNTY OF BRANCH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Resolution # 2022-03

RESOLUTION OPPOSING MICHIGAN HOUSE BILLS 4729, 4730, 4731 & 4732

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for-profit corporation from Seattle, WA has spearheaded legislation to undermine the integrity of the Register of Deeds' and Treasurer's offices across the state of Michigan, which will greatly reduce revenues needed to fund the daily operation of both offices, and

WHEREAS, the legislation that Zillow is lobbying for would require Register of Deeds and Treasurer offices across the State of Michigan to provide for-profit corporations copies of any official records maintained by those offices at a significant discount or in some instances free of any charge. As a result, Branch County and the taxpayers of Michigan will be responsible for picking up the tab for providing these records and the financial burden created by the loss of revenue for these offices, and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, Zillow and other for-profit corporations will have the ability to demand the manner in which the Register of Deeds and Treasurer must provide copies of official records, and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, they would impose new restrictions and limits on what the Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices can charge for parcel cards, and would burden Branch County and other Michigan taxpayers with the cost to provide records to out-of-state entities and corporate organizations, and

WHEREAS, if these Bills become law, Zillow and other corporations will capitalize on selling publicly owned records, provided to them free of charge, while at the same time placing Branch County and other Michigan residents at a higher risk for fraud and theft, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerks, Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and the Michigan Municipal League are united in opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731 & 4732.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Branch County Board of Commissioners OPPOSE the Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731 & 4732, as private corporations should not benefit financially from public records at the expense of Michigan taxpayers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, Senator Mike Shirkey, Representative Andrew Fink, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of County Treasurers, the Michigan Association of County Clerks and the Michigan Association of Register of Deeds

On Roll Call:

Ayes: Kolcz, Matthew, Houtz, Hazelbaker, Stoll - 5

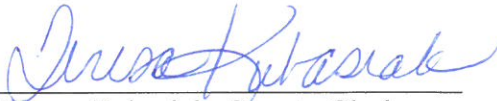
Nays: 0

RESOLUTION ADOPTED:



Timothy Stoll, Chairperson
Branch County Board of Commissioners

Dated: 6-22-2022



Teresa Kubasiak, County Clerk
Branch County

Dated: 6/22/22