

Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION – 2022-29

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

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for-profit corporation from Seattle, WA, has been lobbying the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation that undermines the integrity of Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices across the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the legislation that Zillow is lobbying for would require Register of Deeds and Treasurer Office 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, the taxpayers 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 Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices can charge for parcel cards, and would burden Michigan taxpayers with the cost to provide records to out-of-state entities and corporate organizations; and

WHEREAS, Zillow and other corporations will capitalize on selling publicly owned records, provided to them free of charge, while at the same time placing 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 Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners OPPOSE Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, & 4732, as private corporations should not benefit financially from public records at the expense of Michigan taxpayers; and

