

Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners

Courthouse, 725 Greenland Road

Ontonagon, MI 49953

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Chairperson: Carl Nykanen

Vice Chairperson: John Cane

Commissioners: Richard Bourdeau

Robert Nousiainen

Marlene Broemer

RESOLUTION 2022-04

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 Ontonagon 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, Senator Ed McBroom, Representative Jack Bergman, 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.

Motion offered at a regular meeting of the Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners, June 21, 2022 by Commissioner Nousiainen supported by Commissioner Broemer.

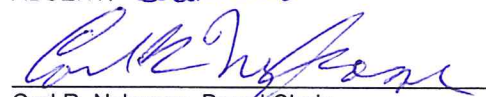
AYES: Nousiainen, Broemer, Cane & Nykanen

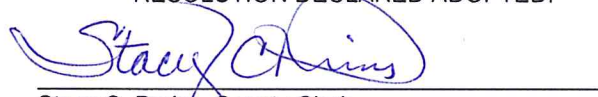
NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Bourdeau

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED:


Carl R. Nykanen, Board Chair


Stacy C. Preiss, County Clerk