

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY approves the following:

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, such legislation would require the Treasurer's and Register of Deed's offices to provide for-profit corporations copies of any official record maintained by those offices for a significantly discounted fee or in some instances, free of charge, passing the responsibility of absorbing the tab for providing these records and the financial burden created by the loss of revenue onto the taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, such legislation will allow for-profit corporations to demand the method the Treasurer's and Register of Deeds' offices are to deliver any official record; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would impose new restrictions and limits on what the Treasurer and Register of Deeds offices can charge for any official record resulting in significant reductions of revenues collected for said offices; and

WHEREAS, such a reduction of revenue will impact the County's general fund shifting the burden of maintaining these constitutionally established offices to the taxpayers of Berrien County; and

WHEREAS, such legislation will result in for-profit corporations data mining information received from the Treasurer and Register of Deeds offices and capitalizing on that data by selling their services for-a-profit ultimately placing Berrien County residents at a higher risk of fraud or theft; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds, Michigan Municipal League are united in opposing Michigan HB's 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4732; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is endorsed by Berrien County Treasurer Shelly Weich and Berrien County Register of Deeds Lora Freehling.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners join Berrien County Treasurer Shelly Weich and Berrien County Register of Deeds Lora Freehling in opposing Michigan HB's 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4732 which allow for-profit corporations to benefit financially from public records resulting in an increased burden to Michigan taxpayers.

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 Kim LaSata, Representative Pauline Wendzel, Representative Brad Paquette, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds, and the Michigan Municipal League.

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

R. McKinley Elliot, Chairman

Teri Sue Freehling

Robert P. Harrison

Mamie L. Yarbrough

Jim Curran

David Vollrath

James R. Martin

Julie Wuerfel

Jon Hinkelman

Rayonte D. Bell

Michael J. Majerek

Ezra A. Scott