



**A2Y**Chamber  
ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER

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September 7, 2011

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners  
220 N. Main St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Commissioners:

The Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional (A2Y) Chamber would like to formally express our support for the proposed renewal of Act 88 funding at a level of up to but no more than 0.05 mills. The A2Y Chamber fully supports the positive impacts of proper economic development. We believe that Washtenaw County can and should utilize the funding source made available through Act 88 to further economic development within the County, especially through organizations such as SPARK. As it is currently written, Act 88 is in need of revision to provide greater clarity on what types of initiatives and organizations it should fund, and greater restrictions on those applications.

As currently implemented, we are generally supportive of Washtenaw County's continued use of Act 88 funds to provide needed economic development funding at prudent levels, but we strongly encourage you to revise your guidelines for the appropriation process of Act 88 funding to provide increased transparency. This applies to the specific economic development goals and outcomes intended to come from final funding decisions. It would also apply to the final allocations and uses of funds derived from the Act 88 millage.

The A2Y Chamber and its members also wish to further reiterate our continued advocacy for cooperation between governmental units; consolidation and innovation whenever and wherever appropriate; and the elimination of any unnecessary duplication of government services. We advocate that there be clear delineations as to where funding will be allocated and proper execution in the use of those funds to promote the specific goals of economic development. We appreciate the chance to offer our input on this process and look forward to working with you in the future to further improve the Act 88 funding and implementation processes and outcomes.

Sincerely,

Diane Keller, President & CEO  
Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber