



16TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

KEVIN COLEMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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March 14, 2022

Dear Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative Albert:

We are in the midst of one of the most severe freeze/thaw cycles our state has ever seen and the evidence of this is immediately recognizable in the condition of our roads. After years of neglecting to invest in our transportation infrastructure, our highways, state roads, and city streets are crumbling. Michigan drivers are forced to swerve and brake to avoid potholes and dig deep into their wallets to pay for expensive repairs to vehicles from this broken-down pavement.

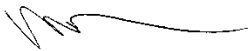
It is unsustainable for drivers to be repairing their vehicles when we, as a state, could be paying to fix our roads. According to a study published in 2019 from the non-profit research group TRIP, Michigan drivers can expect to pay on average \$648 per year in vehicle maintenance and repair as a direct result of the poor condition of our roads. Our families in Michigan cannot afford to keep fixing their cars year after year because our roads are popping tires, snapping tie rods, and deforming wheel rims. It is our responsibility to take that burden from their shoulders by providing smooth, dependable, and drivable roads.

This is to say nothing of the importance of high-quality roads in supporting Michigan's vital tourism industry. In 2019, over 125 million visitors spent \$26.3 billion while visiting our great state. How many will return if they are forced to interrupt their vacations with time spent getting their vehicle towed and repaired? Our economy depends on roads which serve our citizens and visitors to ensure that locations like the Sleeping Bear Dunes, Mackinac Island, Comerica Park and Ford Field, the vineyards of the Old Mission Peninsula, and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore are accessible and welcoming to visitors. We cannot afford to turn away tourists because it is too expensive to drive on Michigan roads.

We are calling on our colleagues in the Michigan Legislature to negotiate with the governor and pass legislation that will meet our immediate needs for road repair. We must also have a long-term fix to Michigan's aging transportation infrastructure maintenance. Any plan passed by the Legislature must take into account all public roadways in Michigan with funding to support the repair and improvement of city, township, village infrastructure as well as county roads and state trunkline. We have dire, immediate needs that cannot be met with current levels of funding. However, the federal infrastructure funds that we are not likely to see again can provide immediate relief to our most pressing problems. Without swift action, Michigan's drivers will be in for an expensive spring as our roads lose integrity and cause significant damage to vehicles.

We can no longer rely on hot patch and hope to get us through another spring of potholes and pricey repair bills for our vehicles. We cannot let old ideological arguments prevent us from providing one of the most basic public services government is tasked with: safe, reliable, transportation infrastructure. Now is the time to act so that our state and local road agencies can begin making repairs and making safe our streets, highways, bridges, and roads as soon as the weather allows. If we fail to act now, we will have no one to blame but ourselves when the vehicle repair bill comes due and our constituents ask us why they have, yet again, been forced to deal with broken streets and broken promises of infrastructure investment.

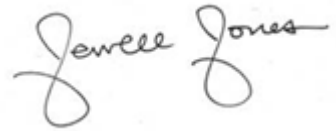
Sincerely,



Kevin Coleman
State Representative
16th House District



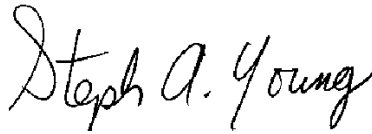
Alex Garza
State Representative
12th House District



Jewell Jones
State Representative
11th House District



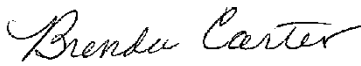
Julie Brixie
State Representative
69th House District



Stephanie A. Young
State Representative
8th House District



Christine Morse
State Representative
61st House District



Brenda Carter
State Representative
29th House District



John Cherry
State Representative
49th House District



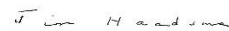
Mari Manoogian
State Representative
40th House District



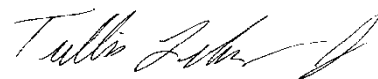
Padma Kupp
State Representative
41st House District



Mary Cavanagh
State Representative
10th House District



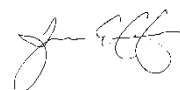
Jim Haadsma
State Representative
62nd House District



Tullio Liberati
State Representative
13th House District



Laurie Pohutsky
State Representative
19th House District



Tyrone Carter
State Representative
6th House District



Cynthia A. Johnson
State Representative
5th House District



Richard Steenland
State Representative
22nd House District



Amos O'Neal
State Representative
95th House District

