

July 27, 2010

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

WHEREAS, Public Act 312 of 1969 (P.A. 312) guarantees certain public safety employees binding arbitration, and in most cases this has placed a costly burden on local units of government; and

WHEREAS, the original argument supporting this act was the need to insure that, for the general public good, all public safety employees would be on the job serving the public instead of on the picket lines; but since that time it is illegal for any public employee to strike; and

WHEREAS, Bills 6154 in the House and 1072 in the Senate were introduced to guarantee county corrections officers binding arbitration in a fashion very similar to P.A. 312; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners believes that neither county government nor the taxpayers of the State of Michigan are in a financial position to expand binding arbitration to any additional employees; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's counties have made it clear that this type of costly legislation not only creates a new unfunded mandate, but adds financial burdens to counties that will likely result in increased layoffs of public safety officers; and

WHEREAS, Corrections officers who work for the State of Michigan do not have the benefit of binding arbitration largely because the state itself cannot financially sustain the potential increased cost this would bring.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners do hereby urge Michigan's Legislators to oppose House Bill 6154 and Senate Bill 1072; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be submitted to the Governor, members of the Michigan Legislature and all 83 counties.

Respectfully submitted,


Parke Hayes, Chair
Public Safety Committee


Alan E. Ringenberg, Chair
Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JULY 27, 2010.