

## Local authority stripped as mining bills pass Senate

Legislation to strip township authority and oversight of sand and gravel mining operations passed the Senate this week. Senate Bills [429](#), [430](#) and [431](#) were reported by committee Wednesday morning and passed by a slim margin by early afternoon. The bills allow state takeover on the permitting of sand and gravel mining and prohibit a township from regulating aggregate mining—eliminating local jurisdiction over the issuance of a permit, approval or any authorization on the location, operation or reclamation of an aggregate and places sole authority with the state. Further, the measure does not permit the state department to deny an application if very serious consequences would be created by the mining operation in the community nor does it require an annual review to address local concerns. This legislation will have lasting detrimental consequences in Michigan communities for decades to come. Local government is the most accessible to the people, and your residents come to you with problems, issues and concerns—and they expect you to have answers and solutions. This legislation takes away that opportunity and ties your hands when trying to best advocate for and serve your residents and community. MTA strongly opposed the bills that unfairly favor the aggregate industry, putting profit over people, to the detriment of our residents, schools and the environment. The bills now move to the House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee. MTA thanks those members who contacted their state senator in opposition and we encourage you to thank those [senators](#) who supported local authority and voted in opposition to the bills.