



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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## Senate BEST plan maims local government

**Lansing, MI** – The Michigan Townships Association (MTA) today offered sharp criticism of the Senate’s “BEST” tax plan saying it strikes yet another blow to local government funding.

“It appears the Senate does not value services—such as fire protection, parks, libraries to name a few—that local governments provide for residents,” said Bill Anderson, MTA legislative liaison. “If it did, the Senate wouldn’t be paying for this plan at the expense of local government. This plan will cripple essential local services that families depend on.

“Unlike the House plan, which MTA supports, the BEST plan offers no protection to local units of governments. This hit comes on top of the 9.9 percent slash to revenue sharing that the Senate approved in March. The message from the Senate to local governments is clear: You don’t matter.”

Senate Bill 96, part of what is known as the BEST plan, exempts the personal property tax for industrial expansions. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, this is a reduction of \$88 million in property taxes in 2008 of which \$47 million goes to locals.

“Fifty-three percent of the lost revenue comes from local government,” Anderson said. “The full impact of this legislation will result in the loss of millions per year to local governments and affect the quality of life for families from Houghton to Hillsdale.”

SB 96 was approved in the Senate on Thursday. It now goes to the House for consideration. The House approved its version of the tax plan on Wednesday. MTA supports the House tax plan.

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