Offered by Council member __________, seconded by Council member __________.

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder signed into law, with immediate, effect Public Act 269 (Senate Bill 571) despite wide spread calls for a veto of this bill, including from members of his own party; and,

WHEREAS, both the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 571 late into the night of December 16, 2015, just prior to recessing for the year; and,

WHEREAS, one of the last minute amendments made to Senate Bill 571, without the knowledge of the Michigan Municipal League or other local government organization, and approved without any public testimony or awareness, was the new language inserted into Section 57, subsection (3); and,

WHEREAS, this new law prohibits a public body, or a person acting for a public body, from using public funds or resources for the purpose of communicating any information to the electorate regarding a local ballot question that is to appear on the ballot, within 60 days of an election; and,

WHEREAS, municipal elected and appointed officials have a civic and legal duty to the residents of their communities to fully inform them regarding the issues placed before them, upon which they may exercise their constitutional right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, existing laws, including the former language in Section 57, and decades of guidance from the Michigan Secretary of State, already prohibit the use of public funds to advocate for or against ballot issues; and,

WHEREAS, existing laws already provided for an allowance for elected and appointed officials to express their views without fear of violating the act; and,

WHEREAS, because the new law bans only communication on local ballot issues, it creates inconsistent treatment of statewide ballot questions versus local initiatives; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Lake Isabella Village Council calls for an immediate repeal of the new language in Section 57, subsection (3) of PA 269 of 2016; and,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the city’s/village’s state representatives in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate.

I, Jeffrey P. Grey, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Village of Lake Isabella, Isabella County, Michigan (the “Village”) do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Village Council at a meeting held on January 19, 2016, the original of which is on file in the Village Office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Date Jeffrey P. Grey Timothy R. Wolff
Lake Isabella Village Clerk Lake Isabella Village Manager