



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 1, 2012

**CONTACT: Matt Bach**  
734-669-6317, [mbach@mml.org](mailto:mbach@mml.org)

## **Senate Committee Passes Personal Property Tax Repeal Despite Concerns and Appeals from Locals**

**LANSING, Mich.** — This statement is from the Replace Don't Erase coalition commenting on Senate Finance Committee passage today of eight bills to cut the business personal property tax without assuring any of the revenues are replaced to local communities and schools.

*“These bills do not assure replacement of any of the revenue eliminated by the legislature to the local communities and schools. More than a dozen Michigan newspaper editorial pages have stated the public’s displeasure with the bills; the Detroit News calls them ‘murky,’ the Lansing State Journal calls them ‘inadequate’ and the Port Huron Times Herald calls them ‘despicable.’ It’s clear the public agrees that these bills are bad for local taxpayers, local communities and local schools.*

*The Coalition has brought a viable solution to the Legislative table – one that would accomplish the goals of all interested parties and eliminate the possibility of tax increases to residents or cuts to local services as a result of the bills, but the Senate Committee chose not to incorporate the solution. The Coalition will continue to work toward a solution on this issue that will protect the funding for services that residents rely on every day.*

*If the bills in their current state become law, legislators be responsible for passing a state law that effectively raises local property taxes for tens of thousands of local homeowners in hundreds of Michigan school districts and eliminates hundreds of millions of dollars in local tax revenues from cities, counties, townships, libraries and schools when they could have simply voted for a guaranteed replacement.*

*The only way to fix these bills is for the Legislature and Governor to assure — guarantee with a constitutional amendment — that all of the revenues they are taking from local communities and local schools are replaced, which these bills do not currently do. That’s the only way to avoid future local property tax increases on thousands of local homeowners and more massive cuts to local police and fire agencies, local libraries, local parks, and local schools.”*

More about the Replace Don't Erase coalition can be found at [www.replacedonterase.com](http://www.replacedonterase.com).

###