

**ECOLOGY CENTER**



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September 15, 1998

Gerald Bantom  
Director  
UAW Region 1A  
9650 S. Telegraph  
Taylor, MI 48180

Dear Director Bantom,

I am writing to request the UAW's endorsement in this November's general election for Washtenaw County Proposal 1, the Comprehensive Land Preservation Initiative.

As you may be aware, my organization, the Ecology Center, has been a UAW shop -- in Local 157 -- since 1991. We have worked in partnership with the union on contract issues at the Auto Alliance plant in Flat Rock, on environmental problems at Textron and other plants, and on health and safety issues at a number of plants. We have stood in picket lines and rallies with UAW strikers and activists. We believe that environmental and labor issues stand on common ground.

Now we would like the UAW's endorsement for the most important environmental proposal in Michigan this year. Washtenaw County Proposal 1 would stop haphazard development that has turned many parts of the state into an endless stream of strip malls and subdivisions. Washtenaw County is already losing farmland at twice the state's rate, and three times the national rate. This loss affects more than just farmers. We all pay with increased taxes, more congested traffic, loss of wildlife habitat, and a diminished quality of life. Proposal 1 is a ten-year initiative to slow haphazard development by preserving farmland, purchasing open space, and redeveloping urban areas.

The campaign for Proposal 1 is led by a bipartisan group of community leaders. It was unanimously approved by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. The County Democratic Party has endorsed the proposal, and several Republican Party leaders have also endorsed it. In fact, the only opponents of Proposal 1 are those special interests who want to turn more farmland and open space into new developments.

I am enclosing a brochure and other material about Proposal 1. I would also be glad to discuss this issue with you or CAP, and to provide additional information. I can be reached at (734) 761-3186 ext. 104. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Garfield  
Director

cc: Brenda Payton