

F2103187
March 18, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN:
Your County Finance Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the County of Berrien is located within the Niles-Benton Harbor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as delineated by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas; and

WHEREAS, the OMB has proposed changes to these Standards that will eliminate the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA in 2023; and

WHEREAS, this change would eliminate accurate in-depth data for land use, economic development, transportation, workforce development, and environmental planning and would result in community leaders making decisions based on less accurate or timely information; and

WHEREAS, federal designations and/or funding sources are often linked with MSA status and many local communities within the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA rely on these designations and the associated funding to provide vital services to their residents and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, losing MSA designation also could mean a loss in private-sector dollars for the County of Berrien because companies seeking to expand or relocate frequently choose to do so only within designated MSAs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED for the reason recited above, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners opposes the Office of Management and Budget's proposed changes to the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, which would eliminate the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA in 2023

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chairperson to author a letter opposing the proposed change to the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA and to distribute this letter to the Office of Management and Budget, Congressman Fred Upton, Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Gary Peters

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mamie L. Yarbrough, Chairperson

Jon Hinkelman, Vice Chairperson

Ezra A. Scott

Teri Sue Freehling

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrator <u>[Signature]</u>	Date <u>3-17-21</u>
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Counsel _____	Date _____
Comments Attached _____	