

**GERRISH TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION ON SENATE BILL 396**

**WHEREAS**, Roads are the backbone of the social, cultural and economic stability of Roscommon County and our region, and particularly Gerrish Township which makes significant annual contributions to preservation, maintenance and other activities on the local road system; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill (SB) 396 (S-5) passed and reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee on September 6, 2018, allows exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions (also known as “frost laws”) to the forest product industry during the spring thaw when roads are the most vulnerable to damage from heavy loads; and

**WHEREAS**, It is a fact in Gerrish Township and throughout all Northern states that all roads become soft in the spring as frost melts, and applying unrestricted 164,000-pound truck loading and traffic on soft roads, whether paved or unpaved, is poor public policy that defies common sense when it comes to road preservation, and will lead to significant damage to the road system, economic damage in Gerrish Township and increased risk to drivers in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, SB-396 also grants exemptions to the forest industry that will allow the hauling of forest products and transport of equipment on the public road system without obtaining proper permits from road authorities at all times of the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of SB 396 *will result in costly damage to the public road system which is the opposite of what the Michigan Legislature and the people of Michigan called for in the 2015 Michigan Transportation Package*; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of SB 396 *will negatively impact the traveling public* accessing the road system, burdening road authorities with expensive reactive maintenance repairs and significantly increased taxpayer costs, as well as increased county and township contributions to maintain the public road system; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions in SB 396 and subsequent impacts to the local road system will negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of Gerrish Township residents and the traveling public; and

**WHEREAS**, Gerrish Township works closely with the Roscommon County Road Commission to maintain our vital local road network and to accommodate the logging industry wherever possible to also maintain the economic vitality of our region;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Gerrish Township Board hereby **strongly opposes** SB 396 (S-5); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** a vote hereon be taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Board.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Patchin and supported by Board Member Udy.

Upon roll call vote the following voted            “Aye”: Udy, Patchin, Tulgetske, Link, Lippert  
  “Nay”: None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Kathleen Patchin, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Gerrish Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board by a roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Board held on October 24, 2018, at which meeting a quorum was present; and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

*Kathleen Patchin*

Kathleen Patchin, Clerk