

**213 East Fourth Street
Northport MI 49670**

[NB: I wish the following letter to be on the record, both included on the county website for public review and noted in the minutes.]

20 September 2021

To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

I write to express my strongest opposition to the proposal to reduce the 2019 Early Childhood Education millage rate to zero. Doing so would not only eviscerate an important policy initiative supported by County voters, but it would also violate the very process that gives voters a voice in the first place.

I take special exception to the suggestion from one member of the Board that the role of elected officials is to correct the “mistakes” of the voters. Voters entrust county commissioners with the responsibility to make decisions, but in some cases—and a millage decision is certainly one—the voters make a direct expression of their own will. That vote carries the same weight as the vote for elected officials, and it should not be undone by anyone but the voters themselves. Any attempt to modify or undermine that decision flies in the face of the democratic process, and it has no legitimacy in Leelanau County or anywhere else in the United States.

I would remind members of the County Commission that our Constitution begins with the words “We the people,” not “We the elected officials.” In the case of the 2019 millage vote, the people have made a clear choice, and the Commission has a clear responsibility to respect it.

Gregory Nobles