

**From:** [Jill Wellman](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Jill Wellman](#)  
**Subject:** For Public Comment at BOC March 16, 2021 Please forward to Commissioners  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:35:39 AM

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These are the comments I intend to make at the BOC meeting tonight. Please forward them to the County Commissioners and include in the meeting minutes.

Thank you for all you do.

Sara Wellman  
Centerville Township

Today I'm going to ask you to do something that I doubt you hear very often. Please don't lower my taxes. One of the complaints that Republicans had about the recently passed Cares Act was that it wasn't targeted to the right people. It was scratching where it didn't itch. And I think your proposal to lower property taxes does the same thing. I'm certainly not suggesting that there aren't property owners in Leelanau County who are suffering financially from the events of the last year. But the amount of money you are providing by lowering the millage will not solve the problem for the young family whose breadwinners have lost their jobs and they are behind on their mortgage, not to mention the residents who rent and will receive no benefit at all. They need more immediate and direct relief. And I am suggesting that the money you are providing to the property owners is going disproportionately to the larger landowners who in most cases have not suffered financial hardship. Aren't you doing the exact thing that many of you disliked about the original bill?

Many property owners in Leelanau are retired. We live on pensions and social security which have remained constant during the last year, and in many cases our expenses have decreased, less gas and wear and tear on the car, no entertainment or dining out, and not much spent out of the clothing budget. How many pairs of sweat pants does one person need? We have missed seeing friends at meetings and events and for those of us whose family lives too far to visit we have missed seeing grand kids grow up. No amount of money will make up for that. And don't forget that a number of large properties in Leelanau are second homes and you will be giving relief to non-residents. I would much rather see you use this financial windfall to help those who have suffered the most during the last year. Use it to help those who don't have enough food to eat, can't pay their heating costs, are burdened with medical bills because they lost their insurance when they lost their job and help those property owners who are in danger of losing their homes. These people need your immediate response. Target those in greatest need. Scratch where it itches.