

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY AND PERMANENTLY ABSTAIN FROM THE USE OF HERBICIDES TO CONTROL THE GROWTH OF VEGETATION WITHIN THE ROADSIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND TO INSTEAD USE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 10, 2019

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners are responsible for the appointment of the three members of the Washtenaw County Road Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Road Commission is responsible for the maintenance and construction of public roads within Washtenaw County, including all primary and local roads outside of City and Village limits; and

WHEREAS, both the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and the Washtenaw County Road Commission exist to provide services with the consent and for the benefit of the residents of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, these responsibilities of the Washtenaw County Road Commission include maintaining the roadside right-of-way of primary and county roads; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Road Commission has developed a roadside vegetation control program to keep the roadside right-of-way reasonably clear, and this program includes the use of grass mowing, mechanical brush mowing, hand trimming, and the application of herbicides; and

WHEREAS, numerous residents and community groups have expressed concern to County Commissioners and staff about the planned application of herbicides as a vegetation control mechanism, including the public notification of these herbicides and the health and environmental impacts of such application, and the irreparable damage caused through application of these chemicals; and

WHEREAS, other vegetation control alternatives exist, and have been successfully used in other communities to control vegetation growth within the right-of-way.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby respectfully requests that the Washtenaw County Road Commission immediately and permanently abstain from the use of herbicides to control the growth of vegetation within the roadside right-of-way, and to instead to use reasonable alternatives which will not cause irreparable damage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners offers its full support and cooperation for the development of a roadside vegetation control program that provides for a reasonably safe roadside right-of-way without the use of herbicides, and which reflects the concerns and interests of those who live among and alongside the roads affected by this program.