

**Here is your chance** to urge the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council to establish an effective, lasting blueprint that guides state government in helping communities achieve Smart Growth goals.

**Please....**

- Testify at the public hearings.
- Speak out for thriving cities, transportation choices, prosperous farms, and refreshing natural spaces.
- And help end sprawl and keep Michigan a great place to live, work, and play.

**A GUIDE TO MAKING YOUR OPINION KNOWN**

1) **TESTIFYING AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Each location offers two public comment sessions per day. To comment at either hearing you must fill out a sign-up card when you arrive. *Comments are taken in the order in which cards are received, so arrive early to ensure a chance to speak.*

2) **TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS:** If you cannot make any of the hearing dates or locations, you can also make comments online at [www.michiganlanduse.org](http://www.michiganlanduse.org), by fax at 517-484-6549, or by sending written comments to: Michigan Land Use Leadership Council, c/o Public Sector Consultants Inc., 600 W. Saint Joseph St., Suite 10, Lansing, MI 48933-2267.

3) **TESTIFYING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS:** There is also a public comment period at 4:00 p.m. at each of the regularly scheduled council hearings on April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, and August 4 at the Boji Tower in Lansing.

4) **TO LEARN MORE:** Click on The Turning Point banner at the Institute's Web site — [www.mlui.org](http://www.mlui.org) — for our ongoing, detailed account of the council and its activities or call us at 231-882-4723. Or visit the council's Web site — [www.michiganlanduse.org](http://www.michiganlanduse.org).

**Monday,  
April 21, 2003**

**GAYLORD**

Kirtland Community College  
Michigan Technical Education Center  
Rooms 103-105  
60 Livingston Boulevard  
3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**MARQUETTE**

Northern Michigan University  
Don H. Bottum University Center  
Brule Room (2302)  
3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**PONTIAC**

Oakland County Board of Commissioners  
Auditorium  
1200 N. Telegraph Road  
3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Monday,  
April 28, 2003**

**DETROIT**

Wayne State University  
College of Engineering  
Auditorium — Undergraduate Library  
3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**GRAND RAPIDS**

City Commission Chambers  
City Hall  
300 Monroe NW  
3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**LANSING**

Senate Hearing Room  
Boji Tower  
124 W. Allegan St.  
3:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m.



205 South Benzie Blvd.  
PO Box 500  
Beulah, MI 49617  
tel: 231-882-4723  
[www.mlui.org](http://www.mlui.org)

# Some Suggested Talking Points for the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council Hearings

This handy, one-page guide summarizes the messages we've crafted on Smart Growth for the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council. We believe these policy recommendations will assure meaningful land use reform and Smart Growth in Michigan.

## Friendly advice about testifying at public hearings...

- Short, clear, concise comments are the best method of getting your point across. Also, individual comment time is limited, so your comments must be brief.
- Writing your remarks down ahead of time often helps.
- Anytime you can tie your own personal experiences into the points you want to make, you are miles ahead. People enjoy hearing true stories from other people.
- One other thing: Smile!

## Michigan Land Use Institute Policy Recommendations:

### 1) ENACT FORMAL STATE LAND USE GOALS:

Just as a community planning process starts with a vision for the future, so too must the state's. Michigan must establish a formal land use vision. Developed with robust citizen input, the state goals would be enacted into law by the Legislature and serve as the framework for Michigan's Smart Growth program by guiding state policy, state agency decisions, and public investment.

### 2) ELIMINATE STATE SUBSIDIES THAT

ENCOURAGE SPRAWL: Every state program is affected by Michigan's projected \$1.8 billion budget deficit. The council should make recommendations to eliminate wasteful sprawl-inducing programs and direct public investment to improve infrastructure in city and town centers. The state needs to embrace a "Fix It First" approach to funding roads, sewer and water systems, schools, and other public facilities. The premise is simple: Expand public infrastructure only when clearly necessary, support infill development, and make sure adequate funds are available to maintain new construction over its useful life.

### 3) PROMOTE REGIONAL COORDINATION AND

COOPERATION: Land in Michigan is developed eight times faster than the state's population grows. Michigan needs coordinated planning legislation to reverse this expensive and damaging trend. Coordinated planning will help improve regional communication, link capital expenditures to growth management plans, encourage partnerships between government and business, and enable regional sales taxes, revenue sharing, and other taxing mechanisms.

### 4) ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF MICHIGAN'S

SMART GROWTH PROGRAM: Create an Office of Smart Growth to serve as the focal point of statewide land use efforts, secure state and federal funding, and invest in effective growth management programs. The office would help ensure that state agency actions follow state land use goals, reflect local community desires, and would serve as an ongoing part of private business working in partnership with local governments and the state.