



PRB-1 Project Status Report November 22, 2009

Why Did You Get This Email?

There are several reasons that you received this PRB-1 Project Status Report.

1. You were on the Project's Mailing List which was developed by registering on the <http://www.prb1michigan.org> website. If you do not want to be on the mailing list please send an email to N8AGS@arrl.net.
2. There has been significant progress toward codifying PRB-1 in Michigan. Most of the progress has going on behind the scenes, but we feel that it is time to update you.
3. In order for the project to continue, we need to raise some new funding. Until now, the cost has been donated by a few key Team Members and a few clubs that have offered monetary support. To continue to communicate with the critical stakeholders requires additional funds and we need to communicate with several groups throughout the process, including numerous government officials. Travel to meetings with legislative contacts will also be required, which again costs money. If we are going to continue this effort in Michigan, and we all agree that this needs to be done, we need to acquire some additional funding.
4. The time has come to begin a Letter Writing Campaign in support of our legislation, and we need to locate some key volunteers to organize the effort. We have the Bill initiated in the Michigan House, and are working on sponsorship in the Senate. Our legislative representatives need to hear from the Amateur community. They need to hear you asking them to Co-Sponsor House Bill #5556, an amendment to the "Michigan Zoning Enabling Act." If

coordinating this kind of effort is your strong suit, we need you.

5. We need the Amateur clubs and other Amateur Organizations to develop club resolutions in support of the amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and send them to us. Tangible evidence of the Amateur Radio community's concern in this matter will carry weight in Lansing and help get this legislation enacted.

So, as you can see there is a lot of activity, but a great deal of work still lies before us.

What Can You Personally Do To Help?

We need some new Hams to offer up what they can. To volunteer to help organize the "Letter Writing Campaigns," a simple email to me at N8AGS@arrl.net will do the trick.

We are currently about \$500 overspent. Individual monetary donations can be sent to Dale, WA8EFK at the following address:

Michigan ARRL PRB-1 Committee
291 Outer Drive
Dundee, MI 48131

Representative Steve Lindberg is sponsoring the Bill in the House of Representatives. I am sure he would appreciate hearing a "thank you" from you.

Please take a moment to contact your Representative to ask to him/her co-sponsor the amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, HB #5556.



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What Can Your Club Do To Help?

A sample Club Resolution Template can be obtained from our website at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id18.html>.

Please ask your club to make a donation and prepare a club Resolution in support of the Bill. For those clubs that have already completed this, thank you.

More remains to be done. Waiting until someone has a tower problem with the local government to do something will only prove to be more difficult and more expensive for all involved, and for the most part, too late to do much good. We need your club's support now. There are many ways to contribute. One of them is to help lead your club's efforts. So please take a few moments and support the Project.

We Have A Fallen Team Member!

Abe, W8HVG has taken Ill. He has resigned from the Team. He has always been on the "cutting edge" of Amateur activities, and his presence on the team will be missed. I thank him for his work on this Project.

House Bill – Status

The House version of our Bill is being sponsored by Representative Steve Lindberg. Raoul Rivard, W8RDR initiated his sponsorship and continues to be our single Point of Contact to Rep. Lindberg. Rep. Lindberg is a Ham, N8UZP. This connection made acquiring his sponsorship relatively easy. However, the politics of the State Budget has delayed this process beyond

expectations. Consequently, our Bill had been in an apparent holding pattern for a while.

The House version (HB #5556) has been drafted by the Legislative Services Bureau and is currently in the Committee for Inter-Governmental and Regional Affairs. Rep. Lindberg is currently seeking Co-Sponsors. A copy of the Draft Bill can be found at <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-HB-5556>

Senate Bill – Status

We have not been able to get a firm commitment of support from a Michigan Senator. Unfortunately, there is no Senator that is a Ham. We are seeking support from several potential Sponsors, but thus far the response has been somewhat cold. It could be that Michigan's budget issues are also precluding this body of government from considering our Bill. However, we continue to press our contacts.

If you have a solid connection with your Senator, we ask you to consider working directly with us to contact that Senator and solicit the Senator's support for our Bill. If you would like to tackle this approach, please contact me for some sample letters and other supporting documents.

Funding

To date we have received \$425 from the following Clubs; Adrian ARC, Branch County ARC, Hiawatha ARA, L'Anse Creuse ARC and Monroe County RCA. The Team Thanks you for these contributions to our efforts! Our past expenses (postage, office supplies, meeting services, etc.) currently exceed what



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has been donated. I urge each of you to have your club send a donation. We can no longer continue to fund this effort out of a few Team Members' pockets.

Club donations can be sent to Dale, WA8EFK at the following address:

Michigan ARRL PRB-1 Committee
291 Outer Drive
Dundee, MI 48131

If you are a leader of an Emergency Services organization, donations toward our effort can also be sent to the same address.

Legislative Letter Writing Campaign

It is time to initiate our legislative letter writing campaign. Please take a moment to contact your House Representative and urge him or her to Co-Sponsor HB #5556, the amendment to the "Michigan Zoning Enabling Act." The addresses for your Representatives and Senators and a letter template can be found at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id18.html>.

Also, it would help greatly to contact your Senator asking him/her to sponsor a Senate Bill comparable with HB #5556, the amendment to the "Michigan Zoning Enablement Act." If you need assistance with letter formats, supporting documents (e.g. Frequently Asked Questions, Samples of provided emergency services, etc.) Please feel free to contact me at N8AGS@arrl.net or Pat at KC8RTW@arrl.net

How Did The Bill Become A Zoning Act?

Representative Lindberg felt that our Bill was in fact a Zoning Act versus a Communications Act. His idea is to modify an existing law to incorporate the wording of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. We discussed this within the Team and with Rep Lindberg and after all the discussion, it was determined that we would support Rep. Lindberg's strategy. Wording of the amendment to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act can be found at <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-HB-5556>. If you have any questions you can contact the Project Team at N8AGS@arrl.net.

Schedule

We are well behind our original schedule. There are many contributors to this dilemma. This effort is still recoverable. However, we will need to increase available funding to recover from lost schedule. When you have no funds available for conferencing services it is hard to confer with the Team. When you have no funds for postage, it is hard to send out hardcopy correspondence. You need face-to-face meetings and/or hardcopy correspondence. Except for the most committed, Email does not work. Without new funding, the initiative could be lost.

Please Copy Us On Your Correspondence

Please send us a copy of your correspondence to you legislators. We need to understand your perspectives and identify the volume of mail being sent.

Len Todd, N8AGS