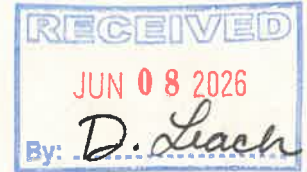


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June 7, 2026

City of Mackinac Island
Zoning Board of Appeals
Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757



Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

Re: Support for Variance Request – 7301 Main Street (Benjamin Property)

We write on behalf of the Callewaert family of businesses on Mackinac Island to express our strong support for Mike Benjamin and his proposed project at 7301 Main Street. We believe this project deserves the Board's approval, and we want to share the perspective of those of us who have invested in and operated businesses on this island for many years.

Housing on Mackinac Island is not a peripheral concern — it is central to the survival of our community and our economy. The island faces a well-documented shortage of housing for workers and year-round residents. Businesses across the island struggle to attract and retain employees precisely because there is nowhere for them to live. Any project that adds viable housing units to our limited inventory is a genuine contribution to the community's long-term health, and Mr. Benjamin's proposal does exactly that.

Beyond the housing benefit, we want to highlight what this project will mean for Main Street itself. The property at 7301 Main Street, in its current condition, is a liability to the surrounding area. A sprinkled and renovated building at this will meaningfully improve the safety and appearance of our downtown. Those of us with businesses and properties in the downtown have a direct stake in seeing these type of improvements, and we are firmly in favor of Mr. Benjamin moving forward.

We respectfully urge the Board to grant Mr. Benjamin the approvals he needs. Housing on Mackinac Island will not build itself — it requires individuals willing to take on the risk and complexity of developing here. When someone steps up to do that, we should do everything we can to support them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Todd Callewaert", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Todd Callewaert, President

MAY 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31
P.O. BOX 1410
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI 49757
(906) 847-3347

NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH APRIL 30
31181 KENDALL DRIVE
FRASER, MI 48026
(586) 293-0600