

**JOINT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2014 - 1**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL, CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, TOWN OF CHURUBUSCO, TOWN OF SOUTH WHITLEY, TOWN OF LARWILL, WHITKO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND WHITLEY COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS JOINTLY OPPOSING LEGISLATION REDUCING OR ELIMINATING BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES WITHIN THE STATE OF INDIANA**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Michael R. Pence and other Indiana legislative leaders have proposed the elimination of the Business Personal Property Tax; and

**WHEREAS**, proponents of the elimination have consistently affirmed that the Business Personal Property Tax is a hindrance to the business climate in Indiana, yet numerous publications consistently rank Indiana 1<sup>st</sup> in the Midwest in Business Climate and Top 10 in the Nation in Business Tax Climate from the non-profit Tax Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Pence stated in a January 10<sup>th</sup> jobs announcement, “Today’s announcement continues to prove why Indiana is the best state in the nation to start or grow a business”; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated the loss of revenue to Whitley County from this tax elimination would result in a \$800,000 reduction, the estimated loss of revenue to the City of Columbia City would be \$223,000, the estimated loss of revenue to the Town of Churubusco would be \$111,000, the estimate loss of revenue to the Town of South Whitley would be \$47,000, the estimated loss of revenue to the Town of Larwill would be \$1,021, the estimated loss of revenue to the county libraries would equal \$61,000, the estimated loss of revenue to Whitley County Consolidated Schools and Smith-Green Community Schools and Whitko Schools would equal \$2 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the municipalities of Whitley County firmly believe that quality of life amenities and economic development go hand-in-hand as our residents require essential and community services that are paid for from Business Personal Property Taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, if the elimination were to take place, municipalities across Whitley County would be forced to make significant cuts to town, city and county services that our residents expect and demand due to continuing population growth patterns and additional requests from residents, ultimately resulting in unfunded mandates from the State of Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, if the elimination were to take place, school districts across Whitley County would again be forced to make significant cuts to support transportation, bus replacement, school building maintenance and technology upgrades; and

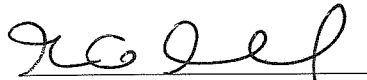
**WHEREAS**, the statewide elimination of the Business Personal Property Tax would significantly harm economic development efforts locally where Whitley County has seen significant economic growth and continues to be a leader in Northeast Indiana.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Whitley County Board of Commissioners, Whitley County Council, Common Council for the City of Columbia City, Churubusco Town Council, South Whitley Town Council, Larwill Town Council, Whitko Community Schools Board of Trustees and Whitley County Consolidated Schools Board of School Trustees that we stand firmly opposed to any attempts which would diminish the revenue collected from the Business Personal Property Tax without a stable and equal revenue stream to replace the lost dollars and urge our local legislators to vote against any attempt to do so; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Whitley County Board of Commissioners, Whitley County Council, Common Council for the City of Columbia City, Churubusco Town Council, South Whitley Town Council, Larwill Town Council, Whitko Community Schools Board of Trustees and Whitley County Consolidated Schools Board of School Trustees that municipal officials are separately elected representatives of the same individuals as legislators represent and attempts to further erode local control should be examined closely due to the commonly held belief that the government closest to the people is the best for the people; and

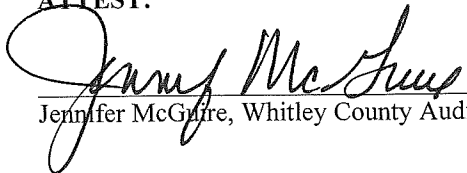
**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED.**

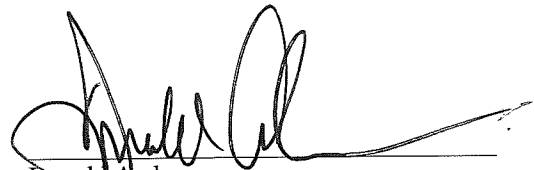
**WHITLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
George Schrumpf, Chairman

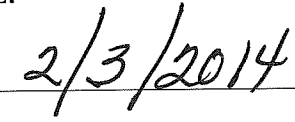
  
Thomas Rethlake

**ATTEST:**


  
Jennifer McGuire, Whitley County Auditor


  
Donald Amber

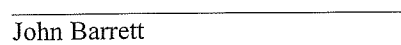
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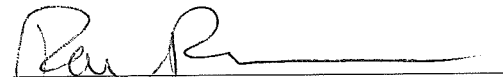
  
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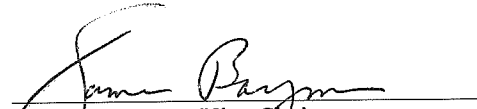
**WHITLEY COUNTY COUNCIL**


  
Tom Western - Chairman

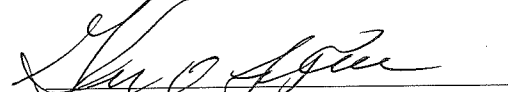
  
Kim Wheeler

  
John Barrett

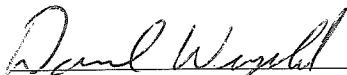
  
Paula Reimers


  
James Bayman - Vice Chairman

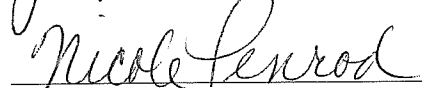
  
William Overdeer

  
Glen Larue

**COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY**

  
Daniel Weigold, President


  
Jacqueline Worrick

  
Nicole Penrod

**APPROVED:**

  
Ryan L. Daniel, Mayor

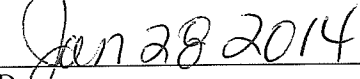
  
Ben Romine

  
William Simpson

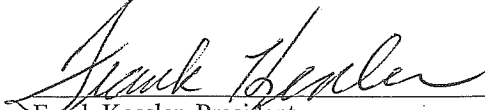
**ATTEST:**


  
Rosie Coyle, Clerk-Treasurer

**DATE:**

  
Date

TOWN COUNCIL OF CHURUBUSCO

  
Frank Kessler, President


  
Mark Pepple

  
Alan Malcolm

ATTEST:  
  
Madalyn Sade-Bartl, Clerk-Treasurer


DATE:  
02-05-14  
Date


WHITLEY COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

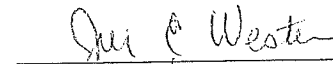
  
Donald Armstrong, President


Absent  
Timothy J. Bloom, Vice President


  
Deborah G. Hiss, Secretary


  
Brooks Langeloh

  
James Renbarger

  
Jill Western

  
Stanley Meyer

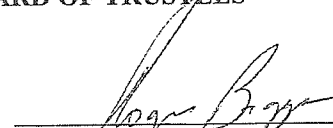
  
William Tucker

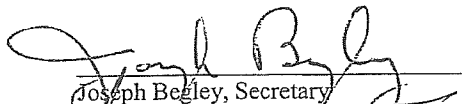

  
Dan J. Curless


DATE: 2/3/2014

WHITKO COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

absent  
Deborah Collier, President

  
Roger Boggs, Vice President

  
Joseph Begley, Secretary  
  
Georgie Tenney, Member

  
Jorell Tucker, Member

DATE: 2/24/14

TOWN COUNCIL OF SOUTH WHITLEY

B. M. Boggs  
Bill Boggs, President

Steve Smith  
Steve Smith

Tony Starkey  
Tony Starkey

ATTEST:

Bob Gould  
Bob Gould, Clerk-Treasurer

DATE:

2-11-14  
Date

TOWN COUNCIL OF LARWILL

Richard Hobbs

Richard Hobbs, Council President

voted Yes

Michael Garwood, Council member

Lore Wolfe

Lore Wolfe, Council member

ATTEST:

Renee S. Sills

Renee S. Sills, Clerk/Treasurer

DATE: February 26, 2014