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LT. GOVERNOR

CLERK OF THE HOUSE

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

December 26, 2012

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am vetoing HB 5415, which creates an advisory board for the Father Marquette Memorial and Mackinac Straits Area Museum.

The bill creates a twelve-member board with the authority to apply for grants and seek other sources of funding to support the museum site and to encourage donations to the Department of Natural Resources for purposes associated with the site.

I am sympathetic with the goals of this legislation, especially in light of the fire that destroyed the museum several years ago. However, the bill implies a state commitment to assist in the financing and operation of a new museum which will cost millions of dollars to construct and maintain. Unfortunately, the Department has neither the funding nor the existing staffing to support the board or its mission.

Moreover, the bill creates more government at a time when we are trying to refocus and better direct the government that we have. A state supported advisory board is not necessary to achieve the goals of the legislation. A group could form an independent 501(c) 3 organization designed to identify sufficient private and community support for the project. If that effort were successful, the state can consider how it might partner with the private organization to better support the site.

The Department shall remain committed to working with local community groups and assisting in developing a future strategy for the Father Marquette National Memorial and Mackinac Straits Area Museum.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor