

## News Release

### Board passes Commissioner Nelson's resolution calling for legislation to hold polluters accountable

**February 10, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – At their February 6, 2020 meeting, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt a resolution introduced by Commissioner **Kristen Nelson** (D-Waterford) calling on state lawmakers to adopt legislation to hold corporate polluters responsible for contaminating land, air or water in Michigan.

“Michigan should have the strongest polluter pay law in the country,” Nelson said. “Corporate polluters must be held responsible for the cost of cleaning up the contamination they’ve created, not the taxpayers.”

Commissioner Nelson’s resolution expresses support for Michigan Senate Bill 116 and House Bill 4212. If adopted, this legislation requires polluters to clean up contamination they cause to the extent that is technically feasible. Under current law, polluters can simply restrict access to a site or an aquifer instead of treating or removing pollutants.

Incidents of corporate and industrial pollution have placed enormous burdens on state, county and local resources in Oakland County. Prominent examples include the recent incident of ‘toxic ooze’ leaking onto I-696 in Madison Heights and a known PFAS site in Ferndale.

“It is critical to the health and safety of Oakland County residents that these bills become law,” Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak) said. “We need to take action so future polluters are held accountable.”

With the adoption of this resolution, support of the legislation has been established as top legislative priority for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Steps will be taken to engage the county’s state

legislative delegation and the Governor's office to push for legislative action on these bills. Copies of the resolution will be sent to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Secretary of State of the State of Michigan, the Attorney General of the State of Michigan, the State Senate Majority and Minority leaders, the State House Speaker and Minority leader, and the members of the Oakland County delegation to the Michigan Legislature.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit [www.oakgov.com/boc](http://www.oakgov.com/boc) or call 248-858-0100.

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