



November 19, 2013

Dear Promise Zone Review Committee,

On behalf of Connect Michigan, I strongly support the Promise Zone application submitted by Northern Transformation.

Connect Michigan, in partnership with the Michigan Public Service Commission, is working to ensure that all can experience the benefits of broadband. Technology, especially widespread access, use and adoption of broadband, improves all areas of life.

Connect Michigan is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of Michigan. Connect Michigan partnered with the Michigan Public Service Commission to engage in a comprehensive broadband planning and technology initiative as part of National effort to map and expand broadband. The program began by gathering provider data to form a statewide broadband map and performing statewide business and residential technology assessments, but has since progressed to working with communities on community plans. Bolstered by benchmarking data that has been gathered through Connected Nation's mapping and market research, the Connected Community Engagement program is drilling down to the regional and local level to facilitate community technology planning.

Currently, Connect Michigan is working with technology planning teams in Roscommon County, Clare County, Ogemaw County, and Gladwin County. The goal of these planning teams is to increase high-speed Internet access, adoption, and use to diversify their economy and ensure their community's competitiveness in the connected global economy of the twenty-first century. The members of these teams in all of the communities have shown a strong desire and will to improve the lives of their residents and competitiveness of their local business via technology planning. Roscommon County, Clare County and Ogemaw County have already developed Community Technology Action Plans and are currently implementing action items (projects) from those plans. These documents or 'Action Plans' can be found at the bottom of each of the county's profile page located on our web-site:

[http://www.connectmi.org/community\\_profile/find\\_your\\_county/michigan/clare](http://www.connectmi.org/community_profile/find_your_county/michigan/clare)

[http://www.connectmi.org/community\\_profile/find\\_your\\_county/michigan/ogemaw](http://www.connectmi.org/community_profile/find_your_county/michigan/ogemaw)

[http://www.connectmi.org/community\\_profile/find\\_your\\_county/michigan/roscommon](http://www.connectmi.org/community_profile/find_your_county/michigan/roscommon)

Connect Michigan is committed to collaborating closely with participating partners in improving access, use and adoption of broadband in order to improve all areas of life in the region. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

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