

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Mr. Tom O'brien  
Northern Transformation Board Member  
Northern Transformation  
2389 S. M-76  
West Branch, MI 48661

November 25, 2013

Dear Mr. O'brien;

I am writing in support of the Promise Zone Initiative Designation application being submitted by Northern Transformation in West Branch, Michigan.

Northern Transformation is a non-profit division of the Michigan Works! Region 7B Consortium serving some of Michigan's most distressed rural counties. The Promise Zone Initiative Designation if awarded, could provide important federal assistance to the region to stimulate investment, job creation, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment and reduce crime.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer this letter of support to this application and hope every consideration will be given to addressing the critical community and economic development challenges of Northern Michigan.



**University  
Outreach and  
Engagement**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex L. LaMore".

Rex L. LaMore, Ph.D.  
Director

**Center for Community and  
Economic Development**

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