County Building 120 N. Grove Street P.O. Box 747 Standish MI 48658

Dear Promise Zone Committee:

www.arenacedc.org

Director

Christopher Shannon Telephone 989-846-2111 E-mail: cshannon@michworks4u.org

**Board Members** 

Curt Hillman, President Dan Ratajczak, Vice - Pres. Laura Puzzouli, Secretary Dennis Stawowy, Treasurer Dave Munson, Deb Morgan, Mark Winslow, Pat Killingbeck, Rose Goick, Frank Cloutier, Jay Jacobs, Mike Stodolak, Daryl Poprave

Administrative Assistant Connie Manszewski

The mission of the Arenac County Economic Development Corporation is to work in partnership with local government and area businesses to promote Arenac County as a place to live, work, and vacation; assist business with location and expansion efforts; increase resources for economic development: support local economic development projects: managed growth and increase opportunities for employer/employee training

The Arenac County Economic Development Corporation supports the efforts of Northern Transformation, East Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Works! Region 7B and Prima Civitas as they apply for a Promise Zone designation on behalf of the Consortium of Partners and as it relates to Arenac County.

The Arenac County EDC is committed to partner in the initiative. As we tackle revitalization efforts, we believe our communities are stronger through regional collaboration. We are committed to the growth and diversification of the County's economy. To that end, the EDC is actively involved in working with new and expanding businesses and industries to facilitate the creation of new jobs for the citizens of Arenac County.

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Arenac County is a mainly rural County that has benefitted from USDA Rural Development Grants that were administered locally by the prudent oversight of local citizens. The need for future funding, to expand broadband infrastructure, to attract business and create affordable housing in proximity to our industry are issues we are confronting everyday. We have incredible natural assets that need to be promoted to attract tourism and believe the promise Zone designation will be the catalyst to achieve the marketing plans we have targeted.

We look forward to working with regional partners who are working on these same issues meaning not only greater success in outcomes, but learning best practices and expanding upon efforts already underway in the region.

Finally, we look forward to working with the Promise Zone Partners to improve the quality of life for our residents and grow and attract business.

Sincerely,

**Christopher Shannon** 

Director, Arenac County EDC