



A CMS Energy Company

November 14, 2013

Northern Transformation Corporation
2839 S. M-76
West Branch, MI 48661

Dear Promise Zone Review Committee:

Consumers Energy is pleased to extend its support to the efforts to obtain a Promise Zone designation in rural northeastern Michigan for Clare, Gladwin, Ogemaw, Iosco, Arenac and Roscommon Counties as led by Northern Transformation Corporation.

Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest utility, provides natural gas and electricity to 6.6 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties. Consumers Energy is committed to this area of Michigan and we intend to invest \$4 million in a new service center in Clare County, beginning in 2014.

This federal designation will provide much needed programs and assistance to this rural area of the state. It will help to increase economic activity, create jobs and reduce poverty and crime. For years Consumers Energy has provided economic development leadership through not only infrastructure expansion, but also by having our employees involved in economic development and chamber boards that are committed to improving the quality of living in this area.

We are pleased to support the Consortium of Partners, specifically the lead applicant Northern Transformation and major partners of Eastern Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Works! Region 7B and Prima Civitas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harmony Nowlin".

Harmony Nowlin
Community Services Area Manager