

EAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

3144 DAVENPORT AVENUE, SUITE 200, SAGINAW, MI. 48602

PHONE: 989-797-0800, FAX: 989-797-0896

WWW.EMCOG.ORG



November 14, 2013

Mr. Mark Berdan
Northern Transformations
2389 South M-76
West Branch, MI 48661

RE: Northern Transformation's Promise Zone Initiative

Dear Mr. Berdan:

The East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) is pleased to offer our strong support for the Northern Transformation's (NT) Promise Zone Initiative grant application.

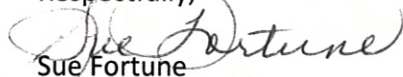
The Council has collaborated with NT since its inception and has participated in several economic development based projects spear-headed by NT ranging from the Stronger Economies Together (SET) grant to Food-based activities.

The Council has, as part of the development of our annual U. S. Department of Commerce/EDA, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document, consistently identified the disproportionate level of poverty within the identified six county Promise Zone as a key challenge to economic development revitalization of that area.

As the USDOC/EDA federal Economic Development District, the Council has identified goals, policies and objectives related to those program areas that make up the economic development continuum. These include, but are not limited to, improved educational opportunities, reduction in crime, transportation infrastructure, increased private investment, etc. The project is consistent with the Council's policies, goals and objectives established to improve and strengthen the area's overall economy and quality of life for its residents.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment as well as offer our support. If we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Respectfully,


Sue Fortune
Executive Director

/sf

Cc: Robert Moffit, EMCOG RED Team Chair
Jane Fitzpatrick, Economic & Community Development Program Coordinator