

105 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 380 Harrison, MI 48617

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November 20, 2013

Dear Promise Zone Review Committee,

On behalf of the Harrison District Library I am pleased to provide this letter of support of the consortium partners of Northern Transformation, Eastern Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Works! Region 7B and Prima Civitas for the Promise Zone application.

The Harrison District Library provides public library services to a population of 12,153 residents of the City of Harrison and surrounding townships. In 2012 our library welcomed 63,475 people through our doors. Our usage is high because access to technology is limited in our community. We are the on ramp to the online information highway for many in our community. We provide free access to workstations where people access unemployment services, apply for jobs, access government services and complete online educational opportunities. Last year we had 15,509 people login to our public workstations. Each month we offer technology literacy classes to improve technology skills for our older computer users. These classes are always in demand and helpful to our patrons. Literacy levels and digital literacy skills is a huge challenge for many of our community members. It is one of our goals to provide access to digital literacy service to better prepare people for employment opportunities.

Clare County is one of the poorest counties in the State of Michigan and with that we face many challenges including a high unemployment rate and large numbers of children living in poverty. Receiving the Promise Zone designation would have significant impact on our community. Please consider the application of Northern Transformation for our community. We are working together to create a stronger, healthier future for our communities.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bissonnette, MLIS

Library Director

Pere Marquette District Library

Barbara Richards, President City of Harrison

Mary Winters, Trustee City of Harrison Nancy House, Secretary Greenwood Township

John Scherrer, Trustee Hayes Township Rick Foote, Treasurer Hayes Township

Michael Howard, Trustee Greenwood Township