



Center for Business & Economic Development

19 November 2013

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

Dear Promise Zone Review Committee:

Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) is pleased to submit this letter of support for your efforts to obtain a "Promise Zone" designation in the northeastern region of Michigan including Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon counties. This federal designation will provide support for much needed programs and assistance and will help to increase economic activity, create jobs and reduce poverty and crime.

The population in this region is aging at a rate greater than other parts of the state and nation. Contributing to that is the fact that many young people are leaving this area as the economic picture continues to be far below other areas of the state and country. An increase in economic activity and addressing quality of life issues has the potential to reduce or even reverse this trend.

SVSU is very interested in being a partner in this "Promise Zone" initiative and sees this as a catalyst that will ignite opportunities to address many of the underlying issues that are causing high poverty rates, low educational attainment and a suffering economy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry Leaver'.

Harry Leaver
Executive Director
Center for Business & Economic Development