

Regional Prosperity Support Letters

1. Ada Township
2. **Adult Learning Partners of West Michigan**
3. Allegan County Road Commission
4. Allendale Township
5. Alpine Township
6. **Baker College**
7. **Barry County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Alliance**
8. Byron Township
9. **Calvin College**
10. Cannon Township
11. Cascade Township
12. **Central Area Michigan Works Consortium**
13. City of Belding
14. City of Cedar Springs
15. City of East Grand Rapids
16. City of Grand Rapids
17. City of Grandville
18. City of Holland
19. City of Hudsonville
20. City of Kentwood
21. City of Lowell
22. City of Muskegon
23. City of Rockford
24. City of Walker
25. City of Wyoming
26. City of Zeeland
27. Connect Michigan
28. Diversified Machine – Montague
29. **Ferris State University**
30. Freemont Area Community Foundation
31. Gaines Township
32. Georgetown Township

33. Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- 34. Grand Rapids Community College**
35. Grand Rapids Community Foundation
36. Grand Rapids Township
- 37. Grand Valley Metropolitan Council**
- 38. Grand Valley State University**
39. Hines – Spring Lake
40. Ionia County Road Commission
41. Jamestown Township
- 42. Kellogg Community College**
- 43. Kendall College**
44. Kent County Board of Commissioners
45. Kent County Road Commission
- 46. Lakeshore Advantage**
47. Literacy Center of West Michigan
- 48. Macatawa Area Coordinating Council**
- 49. Mason County Growth Alliance**
50. MDOT – Grand Rapids Region
- 51. Mecosta County Development Corporation**
- 52. Michigan State University**
53. Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce - Zeeland/Holland
- 54. Michigan Works – Calhoun ISD, Barry, Branch & Calhoun**
- 55. Michigan Works – Kent & Allegan / ACSET**
- 56. Michigan Works – Muskegon & Oceana**
- 57. Michigan Works – Ottawa County**
- 58. Michigan Works – West Central**
59. Montcalm County
- 60. Muskegon Area First**
- 61. Muskegon Community College**
62. Muskegon County – Board of Commissioners
- 63. Muskegon County Community Development**
64. Muskegon County Road Commission
65. Muskegon Dept. of Human Services
66. Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce
67. Newaygo County Board of Commissioners
- 68. Newaygo County Economic Development Office**

69. Oceana County Board of Commissioners
- 70. Orchard View Adult Education**
71. Ottawa County
72. Ottawa Road Commission
73. PADNOS Shoreline Recycling Division
74. Plainfield Township
75. Port Sheldon Township – Ottawa County
76. Senator Dave Hildenbrand
77. Senator Geoff Hansen
78. Senator Mark Jansen
- 79. Sparta Area Schools Adult Education**
80. Starting Block West Michigan Regional Incubator
81. State Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright
- 82. Talent 2025**
83. Telamon Corporation
- 84. The Right Place**
85. Village of Middleville
86. Village of Sand Lake
- 87. West Michigan Regional Planning Commission**
- 88. West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission**
- 89. West Shore Community College**
- 90. Western Michigan University**
- 91. Zeeland/Holland Adult Education**

Required Participants in Bold



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
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HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD
SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**A Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Participation in the Regional Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 country region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board of Directors hereby endorses our participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council is honored and pleased to provide leadership in this regional venture by submitting the grant application on behalf of our West Michigan Region.

Approved on October 4, 2013 by the Board of Directors of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

John W. Weiss
Executive Director, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

10/4/2013
Date

**Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

RESOLUTION R-102813-2

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD, hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on OCTOBER 28, 2013 by THE ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD.
Moved by Member Proos, supported by Member LeBlanc.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Resolution Adopted.

Date: 1028/13

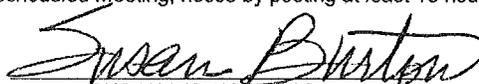


Susan Burton, CMC
Ada Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Ada, County of Kent, State of Michigan, at a meeting held on October 28 2013, the original of which is on file in my office and available to the public. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least 18 hours prior to the time set for said meeting.

Dated: 10-28-2013



SUSAN BURTON, CMC
Ada Township Clerk



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
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SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**Resolution 2013-13 In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on ~~October 28~~, 2013

Kristen Millard, Montcalm County Clerk

Please Return to:

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504



Telamon Corporation

416 North Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: (517)323-7002
Fax: (517)323-9840
Email: dkuchnicki@telamon.org

October 28, 2014

Attn: Mr. Jacob Maas, Executive Director
ACSET Council
1550 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Dear Mr. Maas,

Since 1991 Telamon Corporation has administered the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) for migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the State of Michigan. We are both grateful for the opportunity to provide employment and training services and proud of the number of people who have benefitted from our program. Since we work with an underserved segment of the population that has many barriers to economic success, it is very important to develop and maintain excellent working relationships in both the private and public sector. The ACSET Council has been a key partner for Telamon Corporation since our inception in 1991.

The ACSET Council is structured to meet the objectives of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, ensuring that finite resources are being utilized appropriately. They have a long track record of successfully coordinating service delivery among local governments in order to strengthen the region's economic competitiveness while minimizing redundant and uncoordinated policies. The ACSET Council has also demonstrated the ability to bring together community, agency and private sector partners and develop a common focus and vision.

It is my pleasure to formally recommend Mr. Jacob Maas and the ACSET Council to develop and implement the Regional Prosperity Initiative for Kent and Allegan Counties. Their excellent track record of eliminating silos and moving beyond traditional boundaries to strengthen their region makes them an ideal candidate.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at dkuchnicki@telamon.org or 517/930-0053.

Sincerely,

Don Kuchnicki, State Director
Telamon Corporation



Macatawa Area Coordinating Council

A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government

Policy Board

✧ William Vanderbilt
✧ Blaine Koops
✧ Hannes Meyers, Jr.
✧ Pankaj Rajadhyaksha

Howard Baumann, Jr.
Joseph Baumann
Thomas Bird
Ken DeWeerd
Kurt Dykstra
Terry Hofmeyer
Gerald Hunsburger
John Kleinhoksel
Kevin Klynstra
John Lanum
Al Myaard
Terry Nienhuis
Jim Storey
Russ Te Slaa
Todd Woiters

✧ Executive Committee

Resolution of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council's Policy Committee supporting a request for grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative for activities in Region 4 (West Michigan Prosperity Alliance):

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many economic development, higher education and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

William Vanderbilt, Chair
MACC Policy Committee

10/28/13
Date



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

RESOLUTION # 2013-10

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Village of Sand Lake hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on Oct. 21, 2013 by _____ Motion made by B. Thielke and
Seconded by R. Towsley

Please Return to:
John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Yes: C. Simpson
B. Thielke
K. Thielke
D. Dewey
R. Towsley
Nays: none

Judy Howard, Clerk



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

Office of Adult Education
480 S. State Street Sparta MI 49345

October 23, 2013

John W. Wiess, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

On behalf of Sparta Area Schools Adult Education Program, I am pleased to offer our support for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative grant application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Adult Education Programs are no stranger to regionalization. Sparta Adult Education has been a member of the Adult Learning Partners of West Michigan (ALPWM) for several years. This partnership has fostered working relationships among adult education programs, post-secondary institutions, literacy councils, and workforce development agencies. The ALPWM includes members from Kent, Ottawa and Allegan counties.

We are excited to partner with other organizations in Region 4 in a cooperative effort to promote the prosperity of our region and the success of Michigan's adult learners. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Grimm
Director of Adult Education
Sparta Adult Education
Sparta Area Schools



Jamestown Charter Township

2380 Riley Street
Box 88 Jamestown, Mi 49427
Ph. 896-8376/fx. 896-7271

October 22, 2013

John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Please accept this letter of endorsement for supporting the GVMC's application in order to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). As you are aware, Jamestown has been attempting collaborative efforts with adjacent municipalities on a number of fronts. When we have been successful, it has been overwhelmingly beneficial. We are grateful for GVMC's efforts at bringing about collaboration.

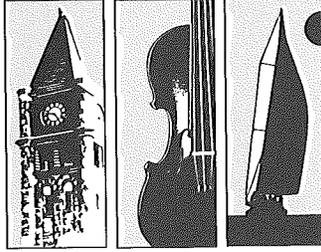
We are convinced that stronger collaboration will not only benefit our township, but will have far reaching effects. We are grateful to the foresight that the State of Michigan has in establishing the RPI. Jamestown looks forward to continuing to be engaged in local and regional collaboration and hope that this application request is fully funded.

Sincerely,

Ken Bergwerff
Supervisor,
Jamestown Charter Township
2380 Riley Street
PO Box 88
Jamestown, MI 49427

616.896-8376 ext 17
kbergwerff@twp.jamestown.mi.us

MUSKEGON



West Michigan's Shoreline City

Affirmative Action
(231)724-6703
FAX: (231)722-1214

Director/Equalization
724-6708
(231)726-5181

Cemetery Department
(231)724-6783
FAX: (231)726-5617

City Manager
(231)724-6724
FAX: (231)722-1214

Civil Service
(231)724-6716
FAX: (231)724-4405

Clerk
(231)724-6705
FAX: (231)724-4178

Community and
Neigh. Services
(231)724-6717
FAX: (231)726-2501

Computer Info.
Systems
(231)724-6744
FAX: (231)722-4301

Engineering Dept.
(231)724-6707
FAX: (231)727-6904

Finance Dept.
(231)724-6713
FAX: (231)724-6768

Dept.
(231)724-6792
FAX: (231)724-6985

Income Tax
(231)724-6770
FAX: (231)724-6768

Inspection Services
(231)724-6715
FAX: (231)728-4371

Leisure Services
(231)724-6704
FAX: (231)724-1196

Mayor's Office
(231)724-6701
FAX: (231)722-1214

Planning/Zoning
(231)724-6702
FAX: (231)724-6790

Police Department
(231)724-6750
FAX: (231)722-5140

Public Works Dept.
(231)724-4100
FAX: (231)722-4188

Treasurer's Office
(231)724-6720
FAX: (231)724-6768

Water Billing Dept.
(231)724-6718
FAX: (231)724-6768

Water Filtration
(231)724-4106
FAX: (231)755-5290

October 22, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of the City of Muskegon in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

CITY OF MUSKEGON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franklin J. Peterson'.

Franklin J. Peterson
City Manager

**ALPINE TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Resolution No. 13-29

**Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Alpine Township Board of Trustees hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

At a regular meeting of the Alpine Township Board of Trustees held on October 21, 2013, Trustee Cordes offered a motion, supported by Trustee May, to confirm the foregoing resolution. The motion carried as follows:

AYE: Arends, Cordes, May, Schweitzer, Townsend, J. Wahlfield, and M. Wahlfield.
NAY: None.
ABSENT: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-29 DECLARED ADOPTED.



Jean Wahlfield, Alpine Township Clerk



1-800-285-WORKS (9675)

Serving Barry, Branch and Calhoun Counties

Calhoun I.S.D. · 17111 G Drive North · Marshall, Michigan 49068 · Ph 269-789-2451 · Fax 269-781-8792

October 23, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I'm writing on behalf of Calhoun ISD Michigan Works! Agency in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terance Lunge
Superintendent
Calhoun Intermediate School District

M.J. Bruns
Michigan Works! Workforce
Development Director
Calhoun ISD Michigan Works!

Albion Service Center
101 N. Albion Street
Albion, MI 49224
(517) 629-5852

Battle Creek Service Center
135 Hamblin Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 660-1412

Coldwater Service Center
210 Vista Drive
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 278-0200

Hastings Service Center
535 West Woodlawn Avenue
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-9545, Ex. 144

THE CISD MICHIGAN WORKS! WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES UPON REQUEST. MICHIGAN RELAY CENTER (800) 649-3777

CALVIN
College

21 October 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Office of the President

Spoelhof Center

3201 Burton St. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4388

616-526-6100

Fax: 616-526-6577

www.calvin.edu

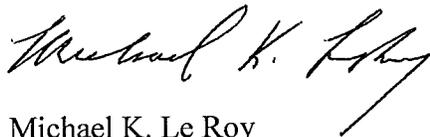
Dear John:

With the support of Calvin College, I affirm the recommendation of The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. The Calvin community joyfully endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13-county area including five higher education institutions. I look forward to seeing this initiative in action, fostering greater communication and collaboration among area stakeholders.

Thank you for your organization's continued commitment to enhancing the quality of life of the people of our metropolitan area through collaboration among regional partners.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Le Roy
President

MKL/sjc



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MUSKEGON COUNTY

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

October 18, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Muskegon County Department of Human Services (DHS) in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Johnson, Director
Muskegon/Oceana/Mason County DHS Offices



MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCIA HOVEY-WRIGHT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

92ND DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-2646
TOLL-FREE: (877) 411-3684
FAX: (517) 373-9646

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
HEALTH POLICY
INSURANCE

E-MAIL:
marciahovewright@house.mi.gov
WEBSITE:
hovewright.housedems.com

October 22, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I am writing to you to express my full-hearted support for the grant funding request submitted by The Right Place, Inc. in collaboration with the Grand Valley Metro Council, the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Planning Commission, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, and several other economic development organizations in order to implement the five year "Prosperity Plan", which is a part of the "Regional Prosperity Initiative" that was initiated and funded by Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature.

This requested funding, if approved by the end of the year, will enable the preparation of a regional five year "Prosperity Plan" which will advance coordination among several infrastructure, workforce and economic development interests. This will ultimately greatly improve the economic development competitiveness of the region.

I am fully supportive and engaged in this application effort and strongly endorse this collaborative effort to prepare a regional prosperity plan. I urge you to support the proposed \$250,000 grand funding, which will inevitably have great economic benefits to Region 4.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact my office at (517)373-2646. I thank you for your support.

Best Regards,

Marcia Hovey-Wright
State Representative
92nd District



Oceana County
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
County Building
100 S. State Street, Suite M-4
Hart, Michigan 49420



October 24, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Oceana County in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Van Sickle".

Larry Van Sickle, Chairperson
Oceana County
Board of Commissioners



Michigan Senate

MARK C. JANSEN

State Senator

28TH DISTRICT
S-310 CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-0797
TOLL-FREE: (866) 305-2128
FAX: (517) 373-5236
senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov

COMMITTEES

CHAIR: REFORMS, RESTRUCTURING, REINVENTING
VICE CHAIR: FINANCE/TAX POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE
CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT
MEMBER: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES
CHAIR: DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND
REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CHAIR: RETIREMENT
VICE CHAIR: GENERAL GOVERNMENT
VICE CHAIR: HUMAN SERVICES
MEMBER: CAPITAL OUTLAY

October 24, 2013

Mr. John Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

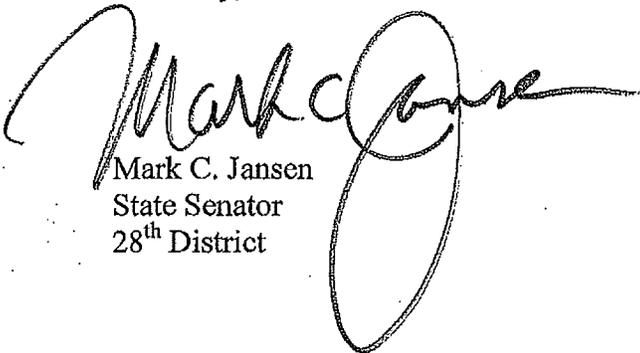
I write today to express my support for State funding to prepare a five-year 'Prosperity Plan' for Region 4.

As a State Senator who also has local government experience, I strongly support regional cooperation between local governments, private sector, education, workforce and economic development organizations to support continued success for the citizens of Kent County.

This is a very important initiative for the people of Region 4. I strongly endorse this collaborative effort to prepare a regional prosperity plan.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Jansen
State Senator
28th District



LARRY EMIG
Chairperson, Local Elected Officials
SHERI THOMPSON
Chairperson, Workforce Development Board
PAUL J. GRIFFITH
Executive Director

October 23, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Subject: Regional Prosperity Initiative

Dear Mr. Weiss:

This letter is written in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Michigan Works! West Central is a firm supporter of Governor Snyder's encouragement to bring together local private, public, and non-profit partners to create vibrant regional economies. Serving the rural counties of Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, and Osceola, Michigan Works! West Central has always been committed to improving regional employment conditions and enhancing the economic development of our region.

We truly look forward to being a partner of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance and support the increased collaboration between our region's workforce development, economic development, adult education, post-secondary education, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government and private companies. We believe this is a powerful way we can all work together to create a common vision and strategy, drive economic investment, encourage business attraction and enhance talent in our region.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Larry Emig in black ink.

Larry Emig, Chairperson
Local Elected Officials

Handwritten signature of William Stanek in black ink.

William Stanek, Chairperson
Workforce Development Board

Our Mission: "To continually improve a Workforce Development System that produces a workforce with the required skills to attract, retain and expand business and enhance our regional economy."

Some Programs Funded by the MI Economic Development Corp-Workforce Development Agency/Equal Opportunity Employers/Programs

MI Relay Center • 800 649.3777 (Voice and TTY)

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



October 24, 20113

Mr. John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John,

I'm writing in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

TALENT 2025 is a collaboration of more than 70 CEOs with a combined workforce of over 115,000 or 16% of the private sector workforce covering the 13 counties of Region 4. Our mission is to improve the quality of the region's workforce to meet the demands of the region's employers today and tomorrow.

The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will directly contribute to achieving our vision for West Michigan to be a top-20 region by 2025. This builds on the achievements of the West Michigan Strategic Alliance and the numerous regional partnerships that already exist. It initiative will foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies.

We believe this funding represents a starting point to regional collaboration that will strengthen our region and make it globally competitive, which benefits everyone in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Stotts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Stotts
President



THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOEFF HANSEN

34TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-1635

TOLL-FREE: (866) 305-2134

FAX: (517) 373-3300

senghansen@senate.michigan.gov

COMMITTEES:
OUTDOOR RECREATION AND
TOURISM, CHAIR
AGRICULTURE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION

October 23, 2013

Mr. John W Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I am writing to urge your consideration and express my support for Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Collaborative Application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative. This collaborative effort would create a five-year "Prosperity Plan" to leverage regional resources that would aid in the creation and retention of jobs. By working together, stakeholders could find potential solutions to common challenges facing West Michigan.

Recently, the State legislature launched the Regional Prosperity Initiative to increase collaboration, promote investment, and meet the needs of our changing economy. By working together, Right Place, Inc., the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Planning Commission, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, and several other organizations have put together an application to improve the economic development competitiveness of West Michigan.

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Collaborative Application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative offers an excellent opportunity to create jobs that will enhance the quality of our neighborhoods and provide a positive community to live, work, and play. I support the efforts of Right Place, Inc. and Lakeshore Advantage, and feel this application would be an excellent candidate for funding. I trust it will receive the consideration that it deserves. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Geoff Hansen
State Senator
34th District



KELLOGG
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

450 North Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49017-3397 PHONE 269 965 3931 WEB www.kellogg.edu

October 21, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Kellogg Community College (KCC) supports and will engage in the Governor's Regional Prosperity Initiative for Region 4. We value our active presence in Barry County through our course offerings at the KCC Fehsenfeld Regional Education Center, our unique arrangement with Hastings High School for workforce training, our working relationships with numerous local employers and various additional stakeholders in the region. We appreciate the opportunity to be at the table to explore deepening existing collaborative efforts and opportunities for new partnerships.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dennis Bona
President
Kellogg Community College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dennis J. Bona, EdD
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Vice Chair

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Matthew A. Davis
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Trustee

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Trustee

Brian C. Hice
Trustee



THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

DAVE HILDENBRAND
29TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1801
FAX: (517) 373-5801
sendhildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov

October 23, 2013

Mr. Bill Rustem
Director of Strategy
Office of Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear ~~Mr. Rustem,~~ **Bill -**

Thank you for your leadership and service to the State of Michigan as the Governor's Director of Strategy. It is regarding the Regional Prosperity Initiative grants that I write you today.

The Greater Grand Rapids region has demonstrated a strong commitment to the regionalization call that Governor Snyder issued to all economic development organizations and local units of government across the state. The work done in our area by the numerous economic development agencies, regional planning groups and local governments to form Region 4 has certainly shown others across the state how regionalism can be a successful tool in economic development and governmental activities.

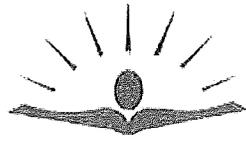
The Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) is coordinating the grant application process for Region 4 for the first round of grants issued through the Regional Prosperity Initiative. I am fully supportive of the GVMC's efforts to obtain funding through this program. In particular this funding will provide crucial assistance as Region 4 prepares its five-year Prosperity Plan.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of the Governor and the state. If you would like to discuss this proposal in further detail please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dave Hildenbrand
State Senator
The Twenty-Ninth District

Cc: Mr. John Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council



Literacy Center

of West Michigan

October 23, 2013

John W Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear John:

RE: Letter of Support

Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Literacy Center of West Michigan endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Sincerely,

Susan K Ledy
President/CEO

Area Community Services
Employment & Training Council (ACSET)

*...ing opportunities for economic self-sufficiency for low-income, economically disadvantaged, elderly,
...bled, unemployed and underemployed individuals, and dislocated workers.*

1550 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Telephone (616) 336-4100
Fax (616) 336-4118
www.acset.org

October 22, 2013

Mr. Chris Harkins
Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor
Dept. of Technology, Management and Budget

Dear Mr. Harkins,

It is with pleasure that the Area Community Service Employment & Training Council, Michigan Works! Kent and Allegan County, acknowledges its support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, who is submitting on our behalf, the Regional Prosperity application for the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Alliance.

Through this letter, we acknowledge the necessity of movement in a regional direction that will serve a thirteen county area with the intent to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, workforce development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. We are pleased to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative and eagerly anticipate joining forces on this project. The opportunity presented will allow us to link with other sectors to build a stronger, cohesive unit in our area.

ACSET fully supports Grand Valley Metropolitan Council and its steps forward to cooperate and coordinate with Gov. Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative. The initiative will allow for broad based regional vision, develop infrastructure and enhance our capabilities for better communication. It will also allow us to appropriately deploy the much needed coordination in our area to reach greater regional economic prosperity.

We, therefore, commit ourselves to support this emerging partnership and its many possibilities.

Sincerely,



Jacob Maas
Executive Director, ACSET



Michigan Works! and Community Action Partnership are divisions of ACSET.

*ACSET is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary Aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Michigan Relay Center 1-800-649-3777.*



Muskegon County Road Commission

7700 East Apple Avenue
Telephone (231) 788-2381

Muskegon, MI 49442-4999
Fax (231) 788-5793

Jack E. Kennedy
Chairman

Melvin L. Black
Vice Chair

John J. DeWolf
Commissioner

Lewis J. Collins
Commissioner

Gerald J. Walter
Commissioner

October 23, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of the Muskegon County Road Commission in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance. The Muskegon Board of County Road Commissioners approved this on 10/23/13.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth J. Hulka". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kenneth J. Hulka,
Managing Director

KJH/amj



MECOSTA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION

Resolution adopted by the Mecosta County Development Corporation at its regularly scheduled Executive Committee Meeting of October 11, 2013:

WHEREAS, in 2012 the State of Michigan formed a Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee to plan for improving collaboration between Michigan's Regional Planning Agencies, Work Force Development Agencies, Adult Education Providers, Transportation Officials, Economic Development Agencies, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, in August 2013 the Regional Reinvention Initiative Committee introduced the Regional Prosperity Initiative that includes ten new Prosperity Regions, and various levels of funding to enhance collaboration and to develop a Five Year Regional Prosperity Plan for each of Michigan's ten Prosperity Regions; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance, comprised of two Prosperity Regions, includes the thirteen counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance includes four eligible applicants (West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, and Macatawa Area Coordinating Council) to apply for funding to implement the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the four eligible applicants mentioned above have met to establish a cooperative approach and have agreed to submit a joint application to the State of Michigan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecosta County Development Corporation supports the Regional Prosperity Initiative and agrees to support the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the grant applicant; and

FURTHERMORE, the Mecosta County Development Corporation designates James M. Sandy, President, as the organization's representative and authorizes his participation in the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

MOVED BY: Bill Stanek

SUPPORTED BY: Paul Bullock

DAVE HAMELUND
Chairperson

PHIL KEATING
Vice Chairperson

October 11, 2013
Date

October 11, 2013
Date



Cannon Township

A Historic Rural Community

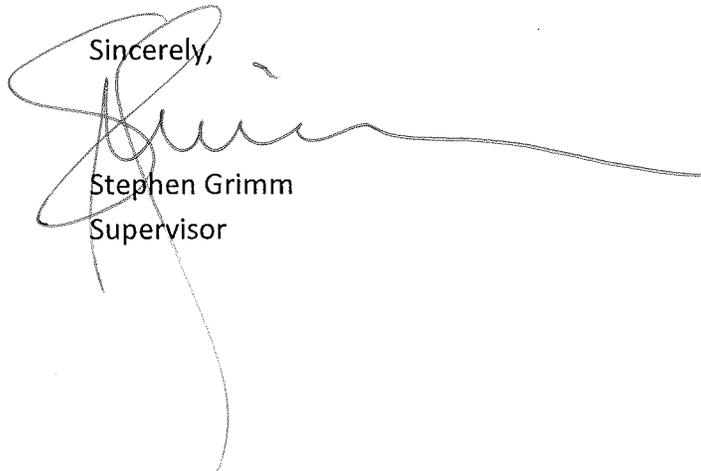
October 18, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids MI 49504

Dear John:

On behalf of Cannon Township, please be advised that we endorse and support GVMC's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Prosperity Alliance.

Sincerely,



Stephen Grimm
Supervisor

6878 Belding Road NE, Rockford, MI 49341

Phone: 616-874-6966 • **Fax:** 616-874-8940 • **Website:** www.cannontwp.org



Since 1911

Baker College
1903 Marquette Avenue
Muskegon, Michigan 49442-1490
Telephone (231) 777-8800
Fax (231) 777-5265

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Baker College of Muskegon in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Coggin".

Lee Coggin, J.D.
President
Baker College of Muskegon



CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE • EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506

Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

At a regular meeting of the East Grand Rapids City Commission held in the Commission Chambers, on the 21st day of October 2013.

PRESENT: Commissioners Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mayor Seibold

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Goebel and supported by Commissioner Johnson:

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

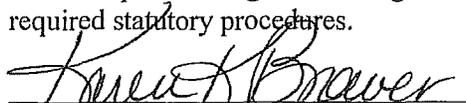
WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the East Grand Rapids City Commission hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

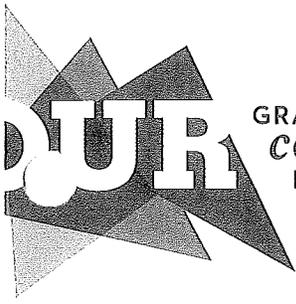
PRESENT: Commissioners Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mayor Seibold

CERTIFICATION

I certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of East Grand Rapids at a regular meeting held at the City Hall on October 21, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., pursuant to all required statutory procedures.


Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Dated: October 22, 2013



GRAND RAPIDS
community
FOUNDATION

October 22, 2013

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert W. Roth *Chair*
Laurie Finney Beard
Wayman P. Britt
Eva Aguirre Cooper
Cecile Cave Fehsenfeld
Carol J. Karr
Paul M. Keep
Christina L. Keller
Arend D. Lubbers
Michael G. Rosloniec
Alondra Vergara-Diaz
E. Miles Wilson

Diana R. Sieger *President*

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation is pleased to provide this letter of support regarding your application to obtain grant funding for regional planning from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The Community Foundation has funded and participated in a number of workforce initiatives and strongly supports and encourages regional collaboration among a variety of groups including economic development, education, transportation, and planning entities. This also includes various governmental entities, the business community as well as the social sector including nonprofits and foundations.

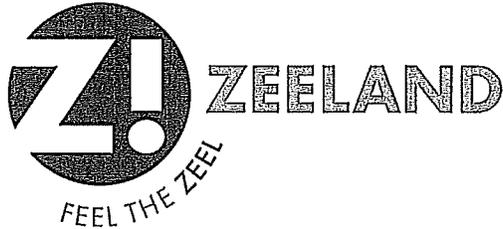
We know that such work will result in a stronger economy in West Michigan and increased opportunities for all citizens of the area, especially as we focus on attracting and developing the businesses and talent that are necessary for a vibrant region and economy.

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation fully supports the choice of the Grand Valley Metro Council to coordinate this grant application. We look forward to working with the Grand Valley Metro Council and other partners in further development of regional planning, ideas and projects and appreciate the opportunity to help develop a process that results in a strong regional approach while allowing for robust local implementation of creative ideas and partnerships.

We strongly encourage the State of Michigan to fully support the application and stand ready to help in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional input or support.

Sincerely,

Diana R. Sieger, President



21 South Elm Street • Zeeland, Michigan 49464 • (616) 772-6400 • FAX (616) 772-5352

October 18, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

The City of Zeeland is providing this letter of endorsement in support of your application to obtain grant funding from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). The goal of establishing stronger local and regional collaboration is a worthy endeavor that will help drive economic investment, lead to greater quality of place and increase business and talent attraction.

We appreciate the latitude the state has provided local leaders in developing the process they want to pursue in establishing stronger local and regional collaboration and want to thank the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for their willingness to be the applicant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

We will continue to be engaged in this effort through our participation in the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council and hope the application request is fully funded.

Sincerely,
CITY OF ZEELAND

Timothy R. Klunder
City Manager

FEEL THE ZEEL



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

ADA TOWNSHIP • ALGOMA TOWNSHIP • ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP • ALPINE TOWNSHIP • BELDING • BYRON TOWNSHIP • CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP • CANNON TOWNSHIP • CASCADE TOWNSHIP • CEDAR SPRINGS
COOPERSVILLE • COURTLAND TOWNSHIP • EAST GRAND RAPIDS • GAINES TOWNSHIP • GEORGETOWN TOWNSHIP • GRAND RAPIDS • GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP • GRANDVILLE • GREENVILLE
HASTINGS • HUDSONVILLE • IONIA • JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP • KENT COUNTY • KENTWOOD • LOWELL • MIDDLEVILLE • OTTAWA COUNTY • PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP • ROCKFORD
SAND LAKE • TALLMADGE TOWNSHIP • WALKER • WAYLAND • WYOMING

**Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Ionia County Road Commission hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on 10/10/13, 2013 by Ionia County Road Commission

Please Return to:

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Georgetown Charter Township Board hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on 10-14, 2013 by



CITY OF BELDING
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-10-68

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN
ENDORING GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S APPLICATION ON
BEHALF OF THE WEST MICHIGAN PROSPERITY ALLIANCE

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Belding, County of Ionia, Michigan, was held in said City on the 15th day of October, 2013.

PRESENT: Council Members Feuerstein, Scheid, Belding, Jones and Gunderson.

ABSENT: None.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Council Member Jones and seconded by Council Member Scheid.

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies; and

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity

Alliance.

Upon vote for the adoption of said resolution, the vote was:

YEAS: Council Members Feuerstein, Scheid, Belding, Jones and Gunderson.

NAYS: None.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED ADOPTED THIS 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2013.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Belding, County of Ionia, State of Michigan, at a meeting held on October 15, 2013, the original of which is on file in my office and available to the public. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for said meeting.

Dated: October 15, 2013


Kareen J. Thomas
City Clerk



NEWAYGO COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

October 14, 2013

Mr. John W. Weiss
Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Avenue NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Newaygo County Economic Development Office (NCEDO), I am pleased to support Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Collaboration Application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

Nearly three years ago, at the urging of Governor Snyder and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, NCEDO began collaborating with other economic development organization from 13 counties that eventually formed Region 4. NCEDO has always strongly supported regional collaboration demonstrated by our innovative, strategic partnership that we entered into with the Right Place over six years ago for the efficient delivery of economic development services in our region.

Recently, Governor Snyder, recognizing the rapidly changing economic forces impacting our State, called for even closer collaboration among additional stakeholders, including economic development, workforce development, education, regional planning and transportation agencies, as well as local government and private sector interests. In response, an application for State funding to prepare the five-year "Prosperity Plan" is being coordinated for Region 4 by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council. NCEDO is fully supportive and engaged in the application effort and strongly endorses this collaborative effort.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew W. Lofgren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew W. Lofgren
Executive Director

Resolution To Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Byron Township Board hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on Oct. 14, 2013 by 

Please Return to:

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504



Cannon Township
A Historic Rural Community

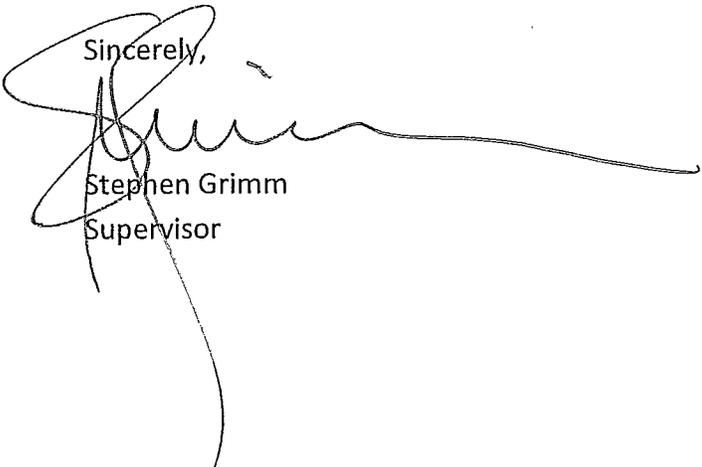
October 18, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids MI 49504

Dear John:

On behalf of Cannon Township, please be advised that we endorse and support GVMC's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Prosperity Alliance.

Sincerely,



Stephen Grimm
Supervisor

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION No. 2013-14

**Resolution to Endorse Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
 Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Gaines Charter Township, held in the Township Hall in said Township, 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue, SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, on October 14, 2013 there were:

PRESENT: Hilton Osterink Lemke VanLaan Fouch Haagsmma

ABSENT: Frylong

The following resolution was offered by Haagsma and seconded by Fouch.

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Gaines Charter Township hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The following aye votes were recorded: Hilton Osterink Lemke VanLaan Haagsmma Fouch

The following nay votes were recorded: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) SS
 COUNTY OF KENT)

I, Crystal Osterink, clerk of Gaines Charter Township, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by Gaines Charter Township at a meeting held on October 14, 2013.

Crystal Osterink
 Crystal Osterink
 Gaines Charter Township, Clerk
 10-15 2013

Date _____

Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mason County Growth Alliance hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

Approved on October 15, 2013 by the Mason County Growth Alliance Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Dillon", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

DR. CHARLES DILLON, BOARD PRESIDENT
MASON COUNTY GROWTH ALLIANCE

City of Cedar Springs

**CITY OF CEDAR SPRINGS
CITY COUNCIL
Kent County, Michigan**

Councilmember **Pam Conley**, supported by Councilmember **Charlie Watson**, moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 30

**A Resolution In Support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's
Application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance**

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature have created the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies, and,

WHEREAS, the West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations, and,

WHEREAS, only the four existing metropolitan planning and regional planning agencies in our 13 county region are qualified to receive funding under the Regional Prosperity Initiative, and

WHEREAS, The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission have requested that Grand Valley Metropolitan Council be the sole applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that the Cedar Springs City Council hereby endorses Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

YEAS: Councilmembers: Charlie Watson, Mark Fankhauser, Ken Benham,
Patricia Troost, Pam Conley, Robert Truesdale, Ashley Bremmer

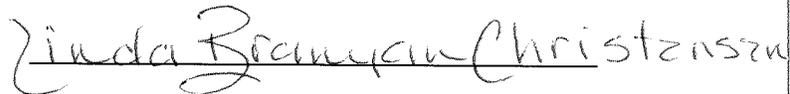
NAYS: Councilmembers: None

ABSENT: Councilmembers: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 – 30 DECLARED ADOPTED.

Dated: October 10, 2013

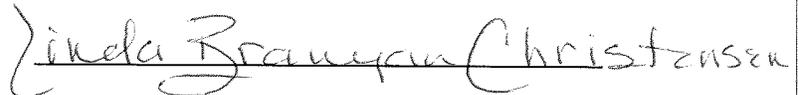


Linda Branyan Christensen, City Clerk

Certification

I certify that this is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Cedar Springs at a Regular Meeting held October 10, 2013 and that public notice of that meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Dated: October 10, 2013



Linda Branyan Christensen, City Clerk.

BOARD CHAIR
Dan Koorndyk

BOARD VICE CHAIR
Jim Saalfeld

BOARD MINORITY VICE CHAIR
Carol Hennessy

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance:
Harold Voorhees

Legislative:
Jim Saalfeld

MEMBERS
Tom Antor
David Bulkowski
Candace Chivis
Joel Freeman
Harold Mast
Roger Morgan
Stan Ponstein
Gary Rolls
Shana Shroll
Sandi F. Steensma
Jim Talen
Dick Vander Molen
Ted Vonk
Nate Vriesman
Mike Wawee, Jr.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

300 Monroe Avenue N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Administrative Office (616) 632-7580
Fax (616) 632-7585
www.accesskent.com

October 17, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss:

We are writing in support of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's collaborative application for the Regional Prosperity Initiative. It is our belief that the Initiative will foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations and will be a valuable asset for West Michigan.

Our support is based upon the understanding that the process will involve identifying several projects that the region can rally around to enhance economic and workforce development. It is also based upon the understanding that Kent County will be involved in the creation of any new regional authorities that may result, and the governance structures that they would employ. Kent County appreciates the efforts that have already been put forth and endorse the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council as the applicant and fiduciary agency for the grant on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Initiative.

Sincerely,

Dan Koorndyk
Board Chair

Jim Saalfeld
Board Vice-Chair

Daryl J. Delabbio
Administrator/Controller

Carol Hennessy
Commissioner, District 14



John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of Diversified Machine Inc. in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, five higher education institutions, six Work Force Boards, three Metropolitan Planning Organizations, two Regional Planning Agencies, three Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lisa Stafford'.

Lisa Stafford
Human Resources Manager
Diversified Machine, Inc.

HINES

CORPORATION

October 16, 2013

John W. Weiss, Executive Director
Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NE, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

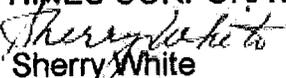
Dear Mr. Weiss,

I'm writing on behalf of the Hines Corporation in support of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's grant application for the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative is intended to foster greater communication and collaboration among organizations involved in economic development, education, work-force development, regional planning and transportation agencies, local and state government, and private companies. The West Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative will serve a 13 county area which includes over 340 local governments, 5 higher education institutions, 6 Work Force Boards, 3 Metropolitan Planning Organizations, 2 Regional Planning Agencies, 3 Rural Transportation Task Forces, and many Economic Development and non-profit organizations.

We believe this funding will allow our region to pursue economic development strategies and leverage our resources to benefit our communities.

Sincerely,

HINES CORPORATION

Sherry White
Human Resources