



November 2, 2010

Representative Ed Clemente, Chair
House Committee on New Economy & Quality of Life
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Clemente:

On behalf of the City of Grand Rapids, I would like to encourage you to support the reform of Michigan's Brownfield Redevelopment process embodied within Senate Bills 437 and 1345 through 1349, and their equivalents in House Bills 6358 through 6363. Accompanying this package of process reforms is a funding component that is found within Senate Bills 1442 and 1443 (same as House Bills 6416 and 6417). All together, these reforms and the funding promise major improvements to Michigan's economy and infrastructure.

The City of Grand Rapids depends upon an effective redevelopment process to promote economic development activities. Bringing more jobs back to Michigan and rebuilding our urban centers are critical components for driving the economy of the state. Having a clearly defined clean up and redevelopment process ensures that the community, the business and the environment all benefit.

For our community, this package will provide even greater flexibility to pursue a proactive urban brownfield redevelopment agenda and will allow any community to work with the State to respond to economic downturns within their municipal brownfield project financing. The funding proposal will ensure that critical, ongoing clean-up activities will not be abandoned due to a lack of money and that local sewer projects will finally see the influx of funding that was envisioned by the passage of the Great Lakes Water Quality Bond in 2002.

Finally, these bills will ensure that the State's sewer project financing mechanism will undergo a thorough review and that recommendations are developed to broaden community access and lower costs and administrative burden.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these important bills. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or would like further information on our support.

Sincerely,



Eric R. DeLong
Deputy City Manager

ERD/nlm

cc: Chris Hackbarth, Michigan Municipal League
Greg Sundstrom, City Manager
Kara Wood, Economic Development Director
Haris Alibašić, Legislative Affairs