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Rep. Ken Borton
Michigan House of Representatives
The 105th District

Minority Vice Chair, Subcommittee on MDARD & DNR Subcommittee on the Department of Insurance & Financial Services Subcommittee on Transportation

KenBorton@house.mi.gov

<u>Committees</u> Committee on Appropriations

Dr. Tim Boring, Director Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development PO Box 30017 Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Dr. Boring,

I am writing to express my support for the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority's (GLUA) application for a 2024 Rural Development Fund Grant. Requested funds will support hydro-geological testing at the proposed site of a wastewater treatment plant near Higgins Lake, which is part of the headwaters for the Muskegon River. This testing is an essential step in obtaining a permit for the construction of the plant and advancing plans to replace failing septic systems around Higgins Lake with a public sewer system.

This improvement to the wastewater infrastructure will have tremendous benefits for this rural area, which attracts 100,000 visitors each year, as well as for the seven Michigan counties through which the Muskegon River flows before reaching Lake Michigan. The sewer project will protect lake water and well water from increasing environmental and health hazards posed by failing septic systems, ensuring that the area remains a tourist destination known for its crystal-clear waters, fishing, camping, and boating.

I fully support these necessary investments in the infrastructure of Higgins Lake that will help preserve and protect these pristine waters for generations to come.

If I may be able to answer any future questions or concerns you may have, please, don't hesitate to contact me either by phone 517.373.0829 or by email at KenBorton@house.mi.gov.

Sincerely,

Ken Borton State Representative The 105<sup>th</sup> District