



THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHELE HOITENGA

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January 3, 2024

Dr. Tim Boring, Director
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

Subject: GLUA 2024 Rural Development Fund Grant Application

Dear Dr. Boring,

I am writing to express my full support for the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority's (GLUA) application for the 2024 Rural Development Fund Grant. The requested funds are vital for hydro-geological testing at the proposed wastewater treatment plant site near Higgins Lake, a critical area within the Muskegon River's headwaters. This testing is a pivotal step in obtaining permits for constructing the plant and replacing failing septic systems around Higgins Lake with a public sewer system.

The improvement in wastewater infrastructure will significantly benefit the rural area and the seven counties along the Muskegon River. The sewer project aims to protect the lake and well water from environmental and health hazards posed by failing septic systems, ensuring the region remains a popular tourist destination known for its clear waters, fishing, camping, and boating.

I wholeheartedly endorse investing in the wastewater infrastructure around Higgins Lake, recognizing the substantial economic, environmental, and health advantages it will provide for Michigan residents. Your support for this initiative will contribute to preserving the area's appeal and enhancing the well-being of both the local community and the broader region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Hoitenga".

Michele Hoitenga
State Senator
36th District