

**MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

Members Present

Paul Gentilozzi
John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin)
Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer)

Members joined remotely

Britany L. Affolter-Caine
Ronald W. Beebe
Rachael Eubanks
Dimitrius Hutcherson
Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich)
Charles P. Rothstein
Susan Tellier
Cindy Warner

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Ms. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting was held in person in the Lake Michigan Conference Room at the MEDC headquarters building in Lansing with optional participation remotely.

Ms. Nelson introduced Katelyn Wilcox Surmann, MSF Board Liaison, who conducted the attendance roll call.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wilcox Surmann explained the process for members of the public to participate. Qiana Towns Williams, District Director for State Senator John Cherry, offered remarks in support of the Flint YMCA Living project.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Wilcox Surmann advised Board members that letters were received from several legislators, including:

- State Senator Jon Bumstead in support of the Adelaide Pointe QOZB, LLC project in Muskegon
- State Representative Jenn Hill in support of the City of Marquette blight elimination/clearance project
- State Representative Gregory Markkanen in support of the Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc. project in Hancock
- State Representative James DeSana in support of the Metro 94 Commerce Center, LLC project in Taylor
- State Senator Darrin Camilleri and State Representative Jaime Churches in support of the 3131 Biddle, LLC project in Wyandotte

In addition, letters were received from the following individuals for three grant recommendations:

- Brock Tessman, President of Northern Michigan University, Stephen Young, Chair of the NMU Board of Trustees, Christopher Germain, Chief Executive Officer of Lake Superior Community Partnership, Tara Laase-McKinney, Executive Director of the City of Marquette Downtown Development Authority, Jerry Irby, Chair of the City of Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Ian Davis, Fire Chief of the City of Marquette, and Roger Grim, Chief of Police of City of Marquette, in support of the City of Marquette blight elimination/clearance project

- Mike Sarrazin, President of SLH Metals Inc., Marty Fittante, CEO of InvestUP, and Justin Horvath, President/CEO of Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership, in support of a grant recommendation for The Edward Lowe Foundation for the Second-Stage Growth Solutions Program
- Nikki Frazier, owner of Sweet Encounter Bakery & Café, Cathleen Ederly, Executive Director of Downtown Lansing Inc., Christine Quane, Director of Food Programs of Eastern Market Partnership, and Anne Gentry, Executive Director of the Alpena Downtown Development Authority, in support of a grant recommendation for Northern Great Lakes Initiatives for the Optimize Main Street Program

Finally, email communications were received from the individuals identified below who expressed opposition to Michigan Potash and Salt Company’s proposed potash and salt production and processing facility in Evert Township. On September 27, 2022, the MSF Board adopted of a resolution to authorize the inducement of private activity bond financing not to exceed \$225,000,000 in connection with the project.

- Jennifer Atlee of Fennville, MI
- David Beaton of Elberta, MI
- Peggy Case of Mecosta, MI (President of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation Board of Directors)
- Ray Davies of Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Dave Dempsey of Traverse City, MI
- Carolyn Dulai
- Cheryl Iree
- Margaret Klotz of Laingsburg, MI
- John Kormash of Rockford, MI
- Beverly Loudon of Detroit, MI
- Jay Machielse of Grand Blanc, MI
- Glenna Maneke
- Scott McNabb of Ada, MI
- Julianne Michaels of Harbor Springs, MI
- Rebecca Stieg of Reed City, MI
- Yeardley Wells

MSF Subcommittee Reports

Ronald W. Beebe, chair of the MSF Finance and Investment Subcommittee, reported subcommittee members met recently to receive an update on the Marshall Megasite. They also discussed the Flint YMCA Living project and the EV Scholars Pilot Program and recommended approval of both agenda items.

Cindy Warner, chair of the MSF Policy and Planning Subcommittee, reported subcommittee members met recently and reappointed her as chair of the subcommittee. Members received an overview of MEDC small business services and also discussed items on the agenda, including the Second-Stage Growth Solutions Program, EV Scholars Pilot Program, and the Adelaide Pointe QOZB, LLC project. They recommended approval of the three agenda items.

Charles P. Rothstein submitted a letter recusing himself from the Michigan Venture Capital Association Fellows Program item under the Consent Agenda. The recusal letter is attached to the minutes.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2023-013 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Ms. Nelson asked if there were any questions from Board members regarding items under the Consent Agenda. There being none, John Groen motioned for the approval of the following:

- a. Proposed Meeting Minutes: February 13, 2023
- b. SK Siltron CSS: MBDP Reauthorization – **2023-014**
- c. Exchange Building, LLC: MCRP Amendment – **2023-015**
- d. Develop Michigan Inc. Board Member Appointments – **2023-016**
- e. Adelaide Pointe QOZB, LLC: Brownfield Act 381 Work Plan – **2023-017**
- f. Metro 94 Commerce Center, LLC: Brownfield Act 381 Work Plan – **2023-2018**
- g. Talent Initiatives: Michigan Venture Capital Association (MVCA) Fellows Program: Funding Allocation – **2023-2019**
- h. Detroit Entrepreneur Inc./Lofts on Louis: MCRP Milestone Amendment – **2023-2020**

John Groen seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 1 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: Charles P. Rothstein

Charles P. Rothstein joined the meeting at 9:23 a.m. and Rachael Eubanks joined the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

V. DEVELOP ATTRACTIVE PLACES

- a. **Resolution 2023-021 City of Marquette: Community Development Block Grant Program Award (Blight Elimination/Clearance Project)**

Vicki Schwab, Managing Director of Regional Prosperity, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval of a Community Development Block Grant Program grant of up to \$8,000,000 with up to an additional \$30,000 to provide administrative services to assist with the compliance and administrative requirements of the award to support a blight elimination/clearance project in the City of Marquette, Marquette County. Following discussion, Ronald W. Beebe motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-021. Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

- b. **Resolution 2023-022 Keweenaw Cooperative, Inc.: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Grant (Keweenaw Co-op Downtown Relocation Project)**

Jen Tucker, Senior Community Development Manager, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval of a Michigan Community Revitalization Program performance-based grant of up to \$1,441,873 to support a community development project in the City of Hancock, Houghton County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of \$7,636,618. Following discussion, Ronald W. Beebe motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-022. Britany L. Affolter-Caine seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

c. **Resolution 2023-023 Uptown Reinvestment Corporation and HWD Harrison, Inc.: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Grant and Loan (Flint YMCA Living Project)**

*Charles Donaldson, Managing Director of Regional Prosperity, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval of a Michigan Community Revitalization Program (MCRP) performance-based grant of up to \$1,500,000 and a MCRP performance-based loan of up to \$5,500,000 to support a community development project in the City of Flint, Genesee County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of \$40,878,414. Following discussion, Dimitrius Hutcherson motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-023. John Groen seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.***

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

d. **Resolutions 2023-024 & 2023-025 3131 Biddle, LLC and City of Wyandotte Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Loan Participation and Brownfield Act 381 Work Plan (The Federal Building Redevelopment Project)**

*Dominic Romano, Senior Community Development Manager, provided the Board with information regarding these action items. The actions involve approval of a Michigan Community Revitalization Program loan participation of up to \$1,562,164 and state tax capture for Act 381 eligible activities capped at \$1,389,849 to support a community development project in the City of Wyandotte, Wayne County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of \$9,727,164. Following discussion, Dimitrius Hutcherson motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-024. Charles P. Rothstein seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.***

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

Ronald W. Beebe then motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-025. John Groen seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

e. **Resolution 2023-026 Howard Property Partners, LLC: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Grant (316 Lake Street Revitalization Project)**

*Dan Leonard, Redevelopment Ready Services Director, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval of a Michigan Community Revitalization Program performance-based grant of up \$1,450,000 to support a community development project in the City of Petoskey, Emmet County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of \$3,684,686. Following discussion, Jennifer Nelson motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-026. Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.***

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

f. **Resolutions 2023-027 & 2023-028 120 E. Superior, LLC and County of Gratiot Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Grant and Brownfield Act 381 Work Plan (Highland Lofts Project)**

Joe Frost, Community Development Manager, provided the Board with information regarding these action items. The actions involve approval of a Michigan Community Revitalization Program performance-based grant of up to \$1,500,000 and state tax capture for Act 381 eligible activities capped at \$374,689 to support a community development project in the City of Alma, Gratiot County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of \$4,278,695. Following discussion, Britany L. Afolter-Caine motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-027. Ronald W. Beebe seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

Paul Gentilozzi joined the meeting 10:19 a.m.

Dimitrius Hutcherson then motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-028. Britany L. Affolter-Caine seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 11 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, Paul Gentilozzi, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

g. **Resolution 2023-029 Industry Detroit QOZB, LLC: Michigan Community Revitalization Program Direct Loan Agreement Amendment**

Debbie Stehlik, Commercial Real Estate Investment Manager, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval of an amendment to the Michigan Community Revitalization Program direct loan agreement to change the borrower from Industry Detroit QOZB, LLC to Industry Detroit Leverage Lender, LLC or a related entity, with Industry Detroit remaining as an applicant; collateral substitution subject to the required New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) structure, currently anticipated to be an assignment of the leverage loan documents; extension of the maturity date and the interest only period to 90 months from the NMTC closing date; and extension of Milestone Three: completion of construction date by 180 days, from March 31, 2024, to September 30, 2024. Following discussion, Paul Gentilozzi motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-029. Charles P. Rothstein seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 11 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, Paul Gentilozzi, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

VI. ATTRACT, RETAIN AND GROW BUSINESS

a. **Resolution 2023-030 Fuel Cell System Manufacturing LLC: Michigan Business Development Program Grant Reauthorization**

*Erik Wilford, Senior Business Development Project Manager, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves reauthorization of a \$2,000,000 Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant to support an economic development project in Brownstown Charter Township, Wayne County. The project is expected to result in the creation of 64 qualified new jobs, with the potential for up to 70 total jobs and a capital investment of up to \$48,905,000. Following discussion, Paul Gentilozzi motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-030. Charles P. Rothstein seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 11 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.***

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, Paul Gentilozzi, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

Britany L. Affolter-Caine, recused from the next item, disconnected from the meeting at 10:33 a.m. A recusal letter is attached to the minutes.

VII. SUPPORT AND GROW OUR TALENT

a. **Resolution 2023-031 EV Scholars Pilot Program: Program Creation and Eligibility Criteria, Guidelines, and Funding Approval**

*Kerry Ebersole Singh, EVP, Chief Talent and Engagement Officer, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval to create the EV Scholars Pilot Program, approval of eligibility criteria and guidelines, and allocation of \$3,500,000, with \$1,500,000 provided to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University at \$500,000 each, and the remaining \$2,000,000 to be disbursed to eligible institutions at the discretion of the MSF Fund Manager. The program will award scholarships to undergraduate students and other students with a goal of retaining top talent in Michigan focused first on the electric vehicle and mobility industry. Following discussion, John Groen motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-031. Paul Gentilozzi seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 1 recused.***

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Ronald W. Beebe, Rachael Eubanks, Paul Gentilozzi, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: Britany L. Affolter-Caine

Britany L. Affolter-Caine rejoined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

VIII. SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

a. **Resolution 2023-032 The Edward Lowe Foundation: Grant Award (Second-Stage Growth Solutions Program Creation and Guidelines Approval)**

*Rodney Parkkonen, Senior Business Strategy Manager, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval to create the Second-Stage Growth Solutions Program to support second-stage small businesses in Michigan, approval of program guidelines, and a \$300,000 grant award to The Edward Lowe Foundation to administer the program. Following discussion, Britany L. Affolter-Caine motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-032. Susan Tellier seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused; 1 abstained.***

Ronald W. Beebe disconnected from the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Rachael Eubanks, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None; Abstained: Paul Gentilozzi

b. **Resolution 2023-033 Northern Great Lakes Initiatives: Grant Award (Optimize Main Street Program Creation and Guidelines Approval)**

Suzanne Perreault, Interim Director of Small Business Services, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval to create the Optimize Main Street Program that will leverage systems and technology to support small business growth and sustainability, approval of program guidelines, and a \$550,000 grant award to Northern Great Lakes Initiatives to administer the program. Following discussion, John Groen motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-033. Cindy Warner seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 10 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Rachael Eubanks, Paul Gentilozzi, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

Dimitrius Hutcherson disconnected from the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

c. **Resolution 2023-034 Red Leaf RNG, LLC: Private Activity Bond Inducement (Sewage/Solid Waste)**

Amber Westendorp, Capital Project & Portfolio Manager, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves adoption of an inducement resolution for private activity bond financing not to exceed \$16,000,000 in connection with the company's Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility to be located in Saranac, Michigan, co-located with the Maple Row Dairy. Red Leaf was formed to develop, own, and operate the RNG facility in Saranac, which will be comprised of a single 2.5-million-gallon anaerobic digester, gas upgrading equipment, and other related equipment where it will process dairy manure biogas into pipeline quality RNG. Following discussion, Paul Gentilozzi motioned for the approval of Resolution 2023-034. Britany L. Affolter-Caine seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Rachael Eubanks, Paul Gentilozzi, John Groen (on behalf of Director Corbin, designation attached), Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Acting Director Wieferich, designation attached), Jennifer Nelson (on behalf of Chairman Messer, designation attached), Charles P. Rothstein, Susan Tellier, Cindy Warner; Nays: None; Recused: None

IX. INFORMATIONAL

Ms. Nelson noted the MSF delegated authority report for the period January 1 to January 31, 2023, was included in the meeting packet. She asked if there were any questions from Board members regarding the information; there were none.

Ms. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
LANSING

SUSAN CORBIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

June 15, 2021

Ms. Katelyn Wilcox
Board Relations Liaison
Michigan Strategic Fund
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Re: Michigan Strategic Fund Board Meeting Designee

Dear Ms. Wilcox:

Pursuant to MCLA 16.51, I hereby confirm my designation of John Groen in addition to Jonathan Smith as the persons authorized and empowered to act in my stead as a member of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board for scheduled meetings I am unable to attend.

If you need anything additional, please contact Diane Burton at (517) 230-5454. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan R. Corbin".

Susan R. Corbin
Acting Director



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

RACHAEL EUBANKS
STATE TREASURER

January 6, 2022

Quentin Messer, Chairman, Michigan Strategic Fund
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Re: Michigan Strategic Fund Board Meeting Designee for Treasurer Eubanks

Dear Mr. Messer:

I hereby designate Andrew Lockwood to attend all Michigan Strategic Fund meetings that I am unable to attend in 2022.

If you need anything additional, please contact Kara Kabia at (517) 241-2624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachael Eubanks".

Rachael Eubanks
State Treasurer

Cc: Eric Bussis
Andrew Lockwood



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

January 12, 2022

Michigan Strategic Fund
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

RE: Designation of Jennifer Nelson

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to MCLA 16.51, I hereby confirm my designation of Jennifer Nelson as the person authorized and empowered to act in my stead as a member of the Michigan Strategic Fund board for scheduled meetings I am unable to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Quentin L. Messer, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
President & Chairman, MSF
Chief Executive Officer, MEDC

PURE *M*ICHIGAN®

From: Charlie Rothstein <crothstein@beringea.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC) <wilcoxk5@michigan.org>
Subject: Recusal

Katelyn,

Beringea is a member of the Michigan Venture Capital Association.

As such, I would like to recuse myself from the Michigan Strategic Fund board discussion and decisions relating to "Talent Initiatives: Michigan Venture Capital Association (MVCA) Fellows Program." The matter is scheduled for consideration at our next board meeting on February 28, 2023.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Charles Rothstein

Charles Rothstein
Founding Partner
BERINGEA
O: 248-489-9000 | M: 248-790-0617
32330 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334
www.beringea.com | [LinkedIn](#) | [Medium](#)

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February 20, 2023

MSF Fund Manager
MEDC
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Fund Manager,

This is to advise that I am recusing myself from voting and excuse myself during the discussion of the following item on the Michigan Strategic Fund Board Meeting Agenda on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

- EV Scholars

The reason for my recusal is that I have a potential conflict of interest with respect to the grantees as administrators of the proposed talent program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Britany Affolter-Caine'.

Britany Affolter-Caine
Executive Director
Michigan's University Research Corridor



**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

JON BUMSTEAD

32ND DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-1635

FAX: (517) 373-3300

senjbumstead@senate.michigan.gov

February 24, 2023

Michigan Economic Development Corporation
ATTN: Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Chairperson of the Michigan Strategic Fund board
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Quentin L. Messer, Jr.,

This letter is written in support of the Adelaide Pointe QOZB, LLC project located in the City of Muskegon as they request \$14,346,616 in Brownfield state tax capture to reimburse for MSF eligible activities. I believe this project has the potential to provide significant local and regional economic benefits while also accomplishing important environmental remediation and restoration as well as expanded public access to natural resources.

Adelaide Pointe's location was used as an industrial site for 150 years, and the restoration of this former brownfield site on Muskegon Lake in the City of Muskegon would provide a significant environmental cleanup of the area. The redevelopment of the property would also take into consideration the best water quality management practices, renewable energy generation, and reduced carbon construction techniques.

Upon completion, the redevelopment of this property would expand public access to the surrounding natural resources. The construction of a new marina on the Muskegon Lake waterfront would bring significant economic benefits to Muskegon and the surrounding communities in West Michigan. In total, the project is expected to create 55 new residential condos, 100 new permanent jobs, and it is expected to bring in over \$100 million in tax revenue for local, state and education organizations over the next two decades.

The project developers have worked with city officials and hosted several public meetings to gather input from the community on this project, which has now rendered a wide range of community support for restoring this former industrial site and turning it into a usable public and private space.

In addition to many others that have supported this project, I would like to add my support and ask that you approve the funding to the City of Muskegon Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for the Adelaide Pointe QOZB, LLC project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office by phone at (866) 305-2134 or by email at SenJBumstead@senate.michigan.gov.

Best Regards,

Jon Bumstead
State Senator
Michigan Senate District 32



109TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PHONE: (517) 373-0498
FAX: (517) 373-9366
JennHill@house.mi.gov

JENN HILL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 24, 2023

Dear Mr. Messer:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Marquette's Community Development Block Grant application for the demolition of the former hospital complex. As a Marquette resident and former city commissioner, I recognize the fundamental importance of clearing these structures for both public safety and community development purposes.

As Marquette and its surrounding communities continue to grow due to rising demand for outdoor recreation and numerous other factors, now is the time for Michigan to invest in the future of the Upper Peninsula. Our location on Lake Superior is our primary asset. Being a coastal community also brings unique challenges that we must be prepared to meet, and no city block should go to waste.

I am glad to join Marquette's police, firefighters, and Downtown Development Authority in recognizing the urgent need to eliminate blight on this large site in the heart of the City. Realizing our shared goal will improve public safety and support the residents and small businesses that make Marquette so special.

I'm eager to tell my constituents across the Central Upper Peninsula that state resources are being leveraged to uplift our communities and secure a brighter future for our region. I hope the Michigan Strategic Fund board will support our vision.

Best regards,

Rep. Jenn Hill
Michigan House of Representatives
District 109
(517) 373-0498



S-1489 House Office Building P.O. Box
30014 Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 373-0850

Gregory Markkanen
Michigan House of Representatives
110th District

Committees
Education
Elections
Insurance and Financial Services
Military, Veterans, and Homeland
Security
Tax Policy

February 24, 2023

Dear Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Chairperson of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

It is an honor to present before you today the hopes and vision of an entire community, a community that has built a common home together through the years and generations at the Keweenaw Co-op. What an opportune moment, as 2023 is the Cooperative's 50th year in existence; 50 years of community building, local business growth, and continued vision-casting.

My wife and I are members of this 'home', and cultural center, which continues to grow and find new life. The Co-op's reputation as a pillar of the community precedes itself, drawing customers beyond the local businesses and families that frequent it. Locally, "The Keweenaw Co-op exists to sustain the physical and social health of our Owners, Customers, and Community" ([Keweenaw Coop - About Us](#)). Nationally, Keweenaw Co-op partners with National Coop Grocers (NCG), providing business services for over 140 retail co-ops like ours. The ripple effects of the varied sorts of investments are profound, and my complete support is heartily behind the endeavor of expanding, developing, and revitalizing this heavily relied on organization. I entreat you to consider supporting this deserving request for a community revitalization grant to support the Co-op's expansion.

We are delighted to be considered for this performance-based grant, and confident you will encounter a community to inspire the same values that bring its owners, members, and business partners together. Thank you for your consideration of investing in the welfare of this significant resource in the heart of the Keweenaw Peninsula and our great state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory Markkanen".

Representative Gregory Markkanen
Michigan House of Representatives 110th District



29TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JAMES DESANA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-0475
FAX: (517) 373-5061
JamesDeSana@house.mi.gov

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Quentin Messer
Chair, Michigan Strategic Fund Board
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Chairman Messer,

I write to express my support for the request for the Michigan Strategic Fund Board to approve a development project in my district, with the important condition that the concerns of local residents are taken into full consideration.

The redevelopment of a blighted piece of property in Taylor, Michigan into a brand-new industrial building represents a great opportunity for the City. As a strong proponent of free markets and a representative of the hardworking people of Michigan's twenty-ninth House District, I do not support the giving-away of hard-earned taxpayer dollars to public or private corporations. However, in this specific case, property taxes that would otherwise be collected and then distributed to state and local entities throughout Michigan will instead be used for the brownfield redevelopment of local property that may benefit the people of my district. This redevelopment project creates an approximate 85 to 15% split in property taxes offered back to the site and the City, so that local money stays local. Because this represents a significant difference from a monetary hand-out from the state, I support the redevelopment of this site.

Thank you for your consideration and your time in reading this letter. Please reach out to my office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James DeSana".

James DeSana
Member
Michigan House of Representatives



MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE
MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • MICHIGAN STATE SENATE

February 28, 2023

Dear Chairman Messer,

We are writing to you today to urge your consideration of the Federal Building Redevelopment project at 3131 Biddle Avenue in the City of Wyandotte. For the Wyandotte community, this redevelopment project will serve as another reason to bring more residents and businesses Downriver. Community revitalization projects such as this one are key to economic growth and development in the southeast region of Michigan.

As legislators and residents of Downriver, we know how much work the City of Wyandotte has put in to re-building their community in alignment with the “Destination Downriver” project led by groups like the Downriver Community Conference as well as other local organizations and leaders. We feel as though this project is a continuation of this, and as such will attract more people, businesses, and events to the community.

We believe the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) board and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) should award funding for this project in downtown Wyandotte. This project will revitalize the community by facilitating business and economic growth, and it will also address crumbling infrastructure like parking, sidewalks, and alleyways in the surrounding area. This project will leave a positive, lasting impact on our community and promote the livelihood of our Downriver constituents.

Please feel free to reach out to our offices should you have any further questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaime Churches".

Jaime Churches
State Rep.
District 27

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrin".

Darrin Camilleri
State Sen.
District 4



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1401 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855-5301
906-227-2242 | 906-227-2249
www.nmu.edu

February 21, 2023

Michigan Strategic Fund Board
Attn: Mr. Quentin Messer, Jr., Chair
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

RE: Community Development Block Grant Program
City of Marquette – Blight Clearance Project

Dear Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Northern Michigan University (“NMU”) Board of Trustees, please accept this letter as a reflection of our institution’s steadfast support for the City of Marquette’s Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) application to fund blight elimination and clearance activities at the former hospital site located at 420 West Magnetic Street in Marquette, Michigan.

The City’s request is aligned with a comprehensive effort to reverse the deteriorating status of the 23-acre former hospital site, which is located in the heart of our community and continues to be a growing liability, public safety concern, and barrier to redevelopment. The site is adjacent to the southern boundary of NMU’s campus and three residential neighborhoods, including student rental housing. The western boundary of the site includes Seventh Street, a primary entry to campus from the U.S. 41/M-28 corridor. The eastern boundary includes transitions to Third Street, a primary commercial corridor near campus.

Over the past eighteen months, The NMU Foundation and City have led a public-private coalition to align the resources and professional relationships required to address legacy challenges associated with the former hospital site, including the proposal before you as well as other critical developments that will enable transformational opportunities for our community and campus. Due to the vacancy of UP Health System – Marquette and the resulting functional obsolescence of the site, public funding through sources such as the City’s CDBG grant application is a critical factor in removing what is otherwise an insurmountable barrier to realizing a productive use of this site that will benefit NMU and the Marquette community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the City’s request and Northern Michigan University’s unwavering support for this proposal.

Stephen E. Young
Chair, Board of Trustees

Brock Tessman, Ph.D.
President



February 24, 2023

Michigan Strategic Fund Board
Attn: Mr. Quentin Messer, Jr., Chair
300 N Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Re: Community Development Block Grant Program: City of Marquette – Blight Clearance Project

Members of the MSF Board of Directors,

The Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) is a private-public partnership in Marquette County, Michigan, whose mission is focused on the promotion and advancement of economic and community development. In partnership with our 300+ members, the LSCP is committed to facilitating job creation, strengthening communities, retaining existing businesses, assisting with business growth, and attracting new businesses to our region.

The LSCP offers its support for the City of Marquette's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to fund blight elimination and clearance activities at the former hospital site located at 420 West Magnetic Street in Marquette, Michigan.

The City's request is aligned with a comprehensive effort to reverse the deteriorating status of the 23-acre former hospital site, located in the heart of the community and continues to be a growing liability, public safety concern, and barrier to redevelopment.

The LSCP has been a member of the local coalition to remove barriers to redeveloping this critical site. It has been a true testament to the power of community collaboration. The MSF's investment of CDBG dollars will make it possible to move the site closer to productive use, unlocking an impactful development opportunity, which will help accelerate new growth in the community, benefiting Marquette and the regional economy for years to come by providing much needed housing and community space to attract new talent to our area.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's request. The LSCP looks forward to your decision and continuing to see this opportunity come to fruition.

Christopher Germain
Chief Executive Officer, Lake Superior Community Partnership



**City of Marquette
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**

Mr. Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the City of Marquette Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in support of the current Community Development Block Grant Blight Elimination application submitted by the City of Marquette for the Former Marquette General Hospital Demolition Project to be considered for approval by the Michigan Strategic Fund.

The Authority has been a key partner with the City and the Northern Michigan University Foundation, entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with a commitment to support the project and approving a Brownfield Plan to financially support the extraordinary costs for the adaptive reuse of the former Marquette General Hospital.

The size and scale of the remaining buildings on the property that will need to be removed represents a significant extraordinary cost and barrier to redevelopment. The project will not be able to proceed with the burden of over \$20 million in asbestos abatement and demolition without financial support. Leveraged with additional private and public funding, the CDBG Grant is a critical component to realizing this key opportunity in the heart of Marquette.

The City of Marquette Brownfield Authority Board fully supports the City of Marquette CDBG Blight Elimination Grant and encourages approval by the MSF to provide crucial funding for this high priority community project.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry Irby, Chair

(906) 235-2279

1100 Wright Street, Marquette, MI 49855



February 20, 2023

Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

This letter is on behalf of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in support of the City of Marquette's Community Development Block Grant application for the Former Marquette Hospital Demolition Project.

The primary purpose of the DDA is to halt property value deterioration, increase property tax valuation, to eliminate the causes of that deterioration, and to promote economic growth. While this property is not located within the DDA boundaries, the demolition of the hospital property will be in close alignment the objectives within this purpose if the CDBG application is approved. The complex is located within blocks of the Third Street Corridor extension of the district and analysis from the City Assessor has shown a stagnation and decrease in property value of surrounding parcels due to the growing problem of blight and deterioration since the abandonment of the hospital complex.

The proximity to the downtown district and looming presence of decaying buildings is not economically beneficial to the businesses within the downtown district that the DDA represents and does not support the core mission of the authority.

The DDA fully supports the elimination of blight through the demolition of the former Marquette General Hospital campus and the CDBG application currently being considered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara Laase-McKinney".

Tara Laase-McKinney
Executive Director
Marquette Downtown Development Authority



MARQUETTE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

418 S. THIRD ST.
MARQUETTE, MI 49855
www.marquettemi.gov
(906) 225-8936



Fire Chief
Ian Davis

Fire Marshal
Jeff Fossitt

Battalion Chief
Brian Phillips

Battalion Chief
Brian Talvensaari

Battalion Chief
Kurt Hillier

February 9, 2023

To: Michigan Strategic Fund Board

From: Chief Ian Davis

REF: City of Marquette Former Marquette General Hospital Demolition CDBG application

MSF Board,

Since the closing of MGH, we have experienced a large number of emergency calls to the complex. We have responded to a total of 42 calls, that include false fire alarm activations and medical emergencies.

The demolition of the vacant structures within the project site will alleviate the amount of real and false fire department responses and will provide a reduction in a significant source of issues and emergency response expenditures for the City of Marquette.

The City of Marquette Fire Department strongly supports the approval of the CDBG application and subsequent demolition of the Former Marquette General Hospital.

Respectfully,

Ian Davis

Fire Chief

RYAN GRIM
Chief of Police



GREG KINONEN
Captain of Detectives

300 W BARAGA AVENUE
MARQUETTE MI49855
(906)228-0400

TO: Michigan Strategic Fund Board
FROM: Chief Ryan Grim
Ref: City of Marquette Former Marquette General Hospital Demolition CDBG application

MSF Board,

From the time the hospital closed, the project area has experienced a significant amount of activity requiring police attention. Over 51 police calls for service have been made over the past four years including cases of vagrancy as well as stalking, malicious destruction of property, trespassing, a suicide attempt, and a warrant arrest.

If the structures remain, our department anticipates these issues will continue and may escalate due to the further deterioration and lack of oversight inherent with blighted and abandoned structures of this nature. The grant supported removal of these buildings will be a significant improvement to the area and will be a great step forward in reducing police responses to this area.

The City of Marquette Police Department supports this grant application and the anticipated demolition of the former Marquette General Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Grim", written over a white background.

Ryan Grim
Chief of Police

From: [Mike Sarrazin](#)
To: [Justin Horvath](#); [John Sarrazin](#)
Cc: [Rodney Parkkonen \(MEDC\)](#); [Joseph McCulloch \(MEDC\)](#)
Subject: Re: Michigan Economic Development Corporation Now Offering No-Cost Rural Entrepreneurship Program
Date: Friday, December 16, 2022 12:38:46 PM

Justin

This may seem old news but I wanted to share with you my experience with the Edward Lowe Foundation. First off, a huge thank you goes out to you and the MEDC for making this opportunity available to myself and other area businesses, the program is wonderful and the entire staff at ELF are the best. I went into this thinking that it was going to be just another think tank with a touch of feel good therapy, while the above was included, the program was way more than that. The take aways from our online sessions were real life examples of what all business people go through and were very relatable. Our small group was made up of a wide variety of business, manufacturing, software development, aerospace engineering, communications and food service but we all had common core issues to deal with and the networking helped everyone involved I believe. I then went to the retreat in Cassopolis and was again pleasantly surprised. The facilities and accommodations were exemplary all the way from maintenance and food service to the actual facilitators. In the end I would just like to say if this program is still an option for future engagements I highly recommend it gets funded. Thank you again along with Rodney for making this possible, I appreciate it greatly.

Mike Sarrazin

SLH Metals Inc.

Mike Sarrazin, President
SLH Metals Inc.
229 Sleeseman Drive
Corunna MI, 48817
T: 989-743-3467 X24
C: 989-666-3488

From: Justin Horvath <jhorvath@sedpweb.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 7:01 AM
To: John Sarrazin <John@slhmetals.com>; Mike Sarrazin <mike@slhmetals.com>
Cc: Rodney Parkkonen (MEDC) <parkkonenr1@michigan.org>; Joseph McCulloch (MEDC) <mccullochj3@michigan.org>
Subject: Michigan Economic Development Corporation Now Offering No-Cost Rural Entrepreneurship Program

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to connect regarding the upcoming no-cost opportunity to participate in a Rural Entrepreneurship Program that the MEDC is hosting in partnership with our EDC and the Edward Lowe Foundation. You may have heard from me on this already and the MEDC may have followed up. I want to be sure you receive the message and have the chance to participate in this great FREE program that is designed to help you grow your business.

This program brings together a number of services to provide support to rural second-stage companies like you by combining three different services, a virtual retreat with other rural entrepreneurs in your region, a six month virtual roundtable with the same group of leaders and a technical assistance program designed to help you overcome obstacles that are impacting your ability to grow by introducing you to subject matter experts who will meet with you individually to provide you resources, lists, trends, best practices and other data to help you make the best decisions for the next steps in your business.

The cohort kicks off with the virtual retreat June 14 – 16 for two hours a day. Attached you will find some information including a presentation that includes the timeline and more information about each part of the program and an article that provides some insights from Michigan companies that participated in a previous cohort. This is designed for participation in all three services. **To apply for the program visit Michigan.systemforintegratedgrowth.org**

Companies from the U.P. that participated in a previous cohort of this program included Donckers, a candy store in Marquette and Northern Wings, an aerospace manufacturing and repair company in Newberry. Both had a very positive experience with the program and had this to say:

Donckers

“Our SIG engagement was invaluable,” said Jennifer Ray, co-owner of Donckers, a candy store and restaurant in Marquette, Michigan. “We wanted to grow our wholesale business, but in talking to our team leader, it became clear that we first needed to strengthen our internal operations and flow before taking the next step.” Donckers had recently moved from fast casual to full table service, Ray explained, and SIG specialists provided her with best practices for training staff and improving communications. “I was also able to bring my managers in on some of the calls, which was huge and kept us all on the same page.” Ray said the cohort program differed from other types of assistance she has received because of its longevity and overlapping components. “We’ve gone through training programs that lasted a weekend or a few days, and although you come back energized, you don’t always apply the learning,” she explained. “This program has many layers. It makes you look at things from different angles and keep working on your business rather than in it.” She also appreciated the ongoing connections the roundtables offered. “Even though the sessions were virtual, there was rapport and relationship building,” she said. “In fact, it seemed like we had been together a year, we got to know each other so well.”

Northern Wings

“The monthly roundtable calls were a gift that bridged the isolation gap,” said David Goudreau, president of Northern Wings, an aerospace manufacturing and repair company based in Newberry, Michigan. “We’re two hours from anywhere—which makes us a geographical oddity—and we’re highly technical. So where do I find someone to grab a beer with and discuss my business challenges?” In addition to the camaraderie, the roundtables were a vehicle to exchange critical information, Goudreau said. “It’s far easier for me to learn from someone else’s mistake than my own.” The SIG engagement led Goudreau’s team to identify a better venue for business development. “A list of program managers doesn’t do us any good, and you can spend a fortune on trade shows without drumming up new business,” he said. “Conversations with the SIG specialists inspired my team to find a better answer: industry days.”

I believe you will find great value in this dynamic program. If you would like to learn more and have a meeting with the MEDC to ask some questions, please reply all to this email and we will set up a time to talk with you more about the opportunity and answer any questions you have. Space is limited and we would like to have the list of participating companies finalized by May 18. Thank you in advance for your time and prompt reply to this great opportunity.

Justin Horvath, CEcD
President/CEO
Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership
215 N Water St
Owosso, MI 48867
Ph: (989) 725-9241
Fax: (989) 723-8353
Email: jhorvath@sedpweb.org



January 31, 2023

Michigan Strategic Fund
Attn: Mr. Quentin Messer, Jr., Chair
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Chairperson Messer and MSF Board,

On behalf of InvestUP, along with its Board of Directors, which represent eleven industry sectors across Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) and do business in each U.P. county and employ nearly eight percent of the region's workforce, I would like to express our enthusiastic support for the Edward Lowe Foundation and the Second-Stage Growth Solutions Program.

This grant funding is critical for Michigan's second-stage companies. Invest U.P. has experienced first-hand the work of the Foundation through our U.P.-based companies receiving the benefit of the suite-of-programs. Independently, our organization and our partners in the U.P. came together at the Foundation headquarters to build on our regional strategy as well as further develop the ways in which we, as a region, build on our strengths and identify how we take advantage of future opportunities.

The U.P. economy is heavily supported by our second-stage companies and their ability to grow and thrive is vital to the continued success of our communities. The programming offered through the MEDC and Edward Lowe Foundation provides these companies just-in-time information, connections and insights that enable them to strategically grow – adding good-paying jobs, investment and strengthening their operations to overcome the real and perceived obstacles that come with being in second-stage, and in the U.P.

The team at the Edward Lowe Foundation brings professionalism, experience and a broad reaching perspective to Michigan and those pillars help inform the programming delivered and the ability to design what is necessary for the future. Our second-stage businesses that have gone through Second-Stage Growth Solutions Programming are stronger, better able to navigate growth and are better prepared for whatever the future holds in large part because of what they get out of engaging in the programming between the MEDC and the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Thank you for your time and considering this valuable programming available to our small businesses. Of course, if you have any questions or concerns regarding InvestUP's outlook and its support of this project, please call on me any time at 906-280-7800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Fittante", written over a white background.

Marty Fittante,
CEO, InvestUP



January 12, 2023

Dear MSF Review Committee,

Sweet Encounters Bakery & Café, in coordination with Downtown Lansing Inc., is pleased to provide a letter of support the continued funding of Northern Initiatives services, which provides programs like Optimize Main Street and Initiate Training Cohort. These programs provided meaningful (training, funding, resources)... to bring efficiencies and technology support to small businesses who needed it most in Downtown Lansing

'As a new business owner in downtown Lansing, I found the program straightforward and helpful. The training was insightful and my follow up calls were clarification. I was able to ask questions about information I read and resources available to me. This helped me to better target the grant to my most pressing technological needs. This helped me to grow my online presence and capture online sales.' – Nikki Frazier, Owner of Sweet Encounter Baker & Cafe

The COVID pandemic impacted Downtown Lansing more than any other downtown in the State of Michigan. As our State workforce, and other office tenants vacated the downtown, our businesses were severely impacted due to a dramatic drop in sales and foot traffic needed to support our small business community at all hours of the day. Through the assistance of the Optimize Main Street technology grants, our small businesses were able to learn the importance of online technology and sales tools. This allowed grantees to more easily shift how they sold products and reach customers who are no longer coming downtown to work.

These important programs help build resiliency in our business community, and other communities across the state, helping see small businesses through this transformative time. That is why we ask that you consider approving continued funding for these vital programs.

Please contact Sweet Encounter Bakery & Café or Downtown Lansing Inc. should you require more information.

Sincerely,

Nikki Thompson Frazier

Nikki Frazier

Sweet Encounter Bakery & Café
Owner

Cathleen M. Edgerly

Cathleen Edgerly

Downtown Lansing Inc.
Executive Director



Christine Quane
Director of Food Programs
Eastern Market Partnership
Detroit, MI 48207
313-833-9300

January 12, 2023

Quentin L. Messer Jr., Chair
Michigan Strategic Fund Board

Dear Mr. Messer,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and their partnership with Northern Initiatives to provide the Initiate Training Platform and training.

Eastern Market is a public market that has served Detroit and southeast Michigan since 1891. Eastern Market Partnership (legal name Eastern Market Corporation) is the nonprofit organization that, since 2006, has developed, maintained, managed, and promoted Eastern Market under a management agreement with the City of Detroit. EMP also acts as the official community and economic development organization for the Eastern Market district.

In 2015, EMP opened a shared use community kitchen that provides a licensed facility for 10 to 14 food entrepreneurs. EMP also leads as an onboarding organization for 12 other commercial kitchens in the city of Detroit and metro area. In our role as onboarding organization, we teach a monthly class, ***Getting Started in a Commercial Kitchen***, in which we instruct potential new food entrepreneurs on food safety requirements, state and local licensing requirements, recipe development, insurance requirements and critical business support organizations and tools. In my presentation specifically, I spend a portion of time reviewing the tools and resources on the Initiate platform.

I have seen a lot of online tools for small businesses, but none as been as easy to navigate and use as the Initiate platform. I start with the Start Up section, reviewing the templates videos and checklists and move on to other areas that are useful like the break-even template, and other financial tools.

Food entrepreneurs are great at the craft of making high quality of food and selling it to the masses. Where they fall is short is managing the financial health of their small business. Many don't have undergraduate degrees much less business and/or financial degrees and have been historically excluded by the banked economy. Based on this reality, there is a lot of shame and



reticence to close the gap in their knowledge base. MEDC/Northern Initiative's Initiate platform allows folks an easy, straightforward way to learn enough the basics to build and advance.

On behalf of the 400+ entrepreneurs that I work with annually, I strongly urge you to maintain your support for the platform.

If you would like to discuss this more, or if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

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

Christine Quane
Eastern Market Partner



Alpena Downtown
Development Authority
124 E. Chisholm Street
Alpena, MI 49707

January 17, 2023

Michigan Strategic Fund
Re: Optimize Main Street & Initiate Training Cohorts

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Alpena Downtown Development Authority (DDA), I am writing in support of the programs offered through Northern Initiates, specifically the Optimize Main Street & Initiate Training Cohorts. As a certified Redevelopment Ready Community, we have been able to participate in both programs, which have been incredibly valuable for our organization and the support we can offer to small businesses located in our district.

In the first round of Optimize Main Street, we quickly filled our two allotted slots and were able to have six additional businesses participate as slots opened up. Should the program open again, there are additional businesses out of the 200 located in our district that have expressed interest in participating, given the valuable business training and technology implementation grant that is offered through the program. The businesses who have taken advantage of this program have used it for setting up online storefronts, purchasing a camera for marketing needs, and updating their point-of-sale systems. For many small businesses in our district, these technology improvements (and expertise) would otherwise be unattainable without this program. We are hopeful that it will continue to be offered to strengthen small businesses located in traditional downtowns.

As an organization, I participated in a cohort as part of the Initiate Training. The training modules have also been a valuable tool to have in my toolbox to not only increase my own knowledge related to small businesses, but to direct businesses to for training and growth.

Small businesses are the cornerstones of our downtown; our district is only as strong as they are. I encourage you to continue to support these programs offered through Northern Initiatives so that organizations like ours and small businesses throughout the state can continue to grow, adapt, and thrive.

Thank you for all you do to support Michigan downtowns!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Gentry".

Anne Gentry
Executive Director
Alpena Downtown Development Authority

989.356.6422

anneg@alpena.mi.us

www.downtownalpenami.com

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Jenny Atlee <atleeloudon@fastmail.fm>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: NO to Michigan Potash & Salt Company mining activities in MI

Dear MSF Rep,

I am writing to express strong opposition to the proposal to support and permit Michigan Potash & Salt Company mining activities in MI. We have ample evidence of the devastating impact of this extractive industry that will irreparable damage to over 100 square miles of sensitive environment . MI stands out internationally for making bad decisions related to water which is a common good. Don't add to the disastrous record. The lakes are an invaluable resource to be protected and safeguarded - do not destroy them. We do not consent to this reckless industry wrecking a common good for private profit.

Jennifer Atlee

Fennville, MI

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: david beaton <beatond@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

I oppose this mine. I have a house in Florida and deal with Mosaic Phosphate Mining as they destroy the beautiful landscape and rivers for their phosphate mine, the waste, the runoff and destruction of the soil makeup. Please Michigan is more beautiful. Stop this while you still can. Employment opportunities are minimum in these operations. Environmental damage is all you will be left with. Vote NO please.

Any salt MPSC is unable to sell is no longer a "beneficial co-product" but becomes toxic solid waste that must be redissolved in fresh water and disposed of deep underground, polluting, then removing that fresh water from the hydrologic cycle into perpetuity. Is it correct to say that by issuing these Private Activity Bonds, MSF is lending the state of Michigan's good name and reputation to underwrite and encourage pollution, impairment and destruction of a public trust resource of the state?

David Beaton
Elberta, Mi

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Ray Davies <yar1006@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

I would like to add my comments to those for the upcoming Michigan Strategic Fund public comment meeting.

I have major concerns in proceeding with approval with Michigan Potash and Salt Company's proposal for a new potash mine in Osceola county.

First and foremost is the potential environmental destruction from the operation itself -the depletion of the aquifer and streams in the area, damage to wetlands (so important to environmental health), the possibility of leaks from the miles of above-ground pipes, and the permanent removal of Michigan water, which is contaminated in the mining process and needs to be injected into deep wells for permanent storage.

Second for me are the violations of democracy and state law. Michigan's water is held in public trust and should not be sold for extraction, especially given the extreme scale of this operation. The Osceola County Planning Commission has not been kept "in the loop," as far as the designs and plans for roads, nor informed of emergency procedures that would be necessary in the event of major leaking, or an industrial accident . The promised jobs are minimal. Jeopardizing the environment with such a risky venture is not worth 129 jobs.

Finally, the economics seem to make no sense unless you're an investor not averse to risk. The developer of this project does not have a strong track record to go on, other more established companies have abandoned this Michigan potash project before, and the potash itself from the mine is not needed. Canadian potash from Saskatchewan is readily available and may well be cheaper.

Please don't go ahead with this project. There are just too many red flags, hazards and downsides for the people of Michigan, especially for those of us living in mid Michigan and Osceola County.

Sincerely,

Ray Davies
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Dave Dempsey <davedem@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: Michigan Potash & Salt Company

I oppose the proposed issuance of issue \$225 million in tax-exempt bonds to support the unnecessary and environmentally harmful Michigan Potash and Salt Company project. Any funds provided would be wasted on a project that lacks a fundamental business plan and a company that lacks capacity to meet its inflated production targets.

Michigan Potash Company has argued that its project is critical to the domestic supply of potash, especially in light of constraints in supply from Russia. However, 83 percent of the U.S. supply of potash comes from the world's largest producer, Canada, and Canada has capacity to increase shipments to the U.S. Further, the U.S. Department of Interior has now removed potash from its list of strategic minerals.

Michigan Potash Company is a small start-up and even less equipped for the task of large-scale potash mining at this location than its three predecessors, who determined the project was not viable. Although the company lists several retirees who worked on a potash mine that shut down in 2013, its top four executives and the company itself have never engaged in mining of any kind.

The necessity of taxpayer subsidies for potash production is questionable. Increasingly, farmers are learning that supplemental application of potash may not be needed to ensure crop yields, and that potassium-chloride in particular can harm their crops and soils. Recent studies out of the University of Illinois show this likely to be the case for a large percentage of American farms

The company has been seeking well over half a billion dollars of investment capital for this project and plans to borrow an equal amount. Despite years of aggressive promotion, neither mineral investors nor banks appear keen to get on-board. Were Michigan Potash successful at obtaining such loans, servicing that level of debt would be problematic.

For an uncertain and dubious return, Michigan Potash Company's project will have dramatic environmental impacts. The company's proposed water withdrawal will have significant adverse impacts on the environment and amounts to unsustainable groundwater mining. The proposed volume is approximately 2,250 gallons of groundwater per minute. The withdrawal totals approximately 1.2 billion gallons of water annually.

The company has yet to perform a sustained pumping test to determine whether the aquifer is capable of supplying the extraordinary amounts of water required to extract a million tons of potash per year through solution-mining. Area residents fear for the future of their wells, without which their lives would become untenable.

The terrain chosen for this venture is poorly suited to the solution-mining of potash, which will involve handling and transporting massive volumes of concentrated, corrosive brines through miles of high-pressure pipelines. During the project's anticipated 150-year lifetime, innumerable leaks and spills will inevitably occur.

Further, the proposed site is not large enough to accommodate the one million-tons-per-year operation the company is promoting, and surrounding terrain would not be favorable for significant future expansion. The company selected its worst piece of ground as the future site of ten high-capacity injection-wells, along with their associated pipes, tanks, valves, pumps, etc. Tens of thousands of gallons-per-minute of hot, concentrated brine solutions will be running through this site at pressures of 2,000 psi. Those brines are exceptionally corrosive, and these facilities are intended to function for a century and a half. To make matters much worse, the site drains directly into one of the largest marshes in Osceola County, situated barely 200 yards away. The

site has been improperly bermed with piles of topsoil instead of compacted layers of clay. There will be no margin for error at this site throughout its alleged 150-year lifetime.

This project is a bad investment both economically and environmentally. It should be rejected.

Dave Dempsey
Traverse City, MI

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Carolyn Dulai <curse2bless@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: MICHIGAN WATER

Jobs yes (129) Sewage yes

Pollution yes Recyclable pollution NO

That is the crises facing Osceola County

Water is under assault. It is almost as precious as oxygen and water is regulated more. But the regulations are not enforced to save water so we can be left with water that is sewage.

That's ok, we can get water from a plastic bottle. Where does that come from - Michigan! But that is about to change as our water is about to become sewage. The State of Michigan could have used the money that it gave to the Michigan Potash Company, millions of dollars, to fund the educational system, but decided to fund Michigan Potash Company that will desecrate the water forever.

Many people in Michigan get their water from their own wells. They won't be able to after The Michigan Potash Company starts operating. The company says it will recycle all but 10-19% of the water it uses. It will only contaminate 100 square miles of land. Isn't Michigan lucky?

Farmers are getting potash from Canada which has a large amount of it. But the State of Michigan is about to decide to make 129 jobs so Michigan can produce potash and ruin one of the world's greatest natural resources (20% of the world's fresh water is in Michigan).

What can I say? Osceola County hasn't the ability to get the information it needs (because of the Mineral Wells Act) to make an informed decision.

Will the State Legislature help?

See Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation.

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Cheryl Iree <Cheryliree@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 2:03 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

There are many, many questions which need to be answered but my knee jerk response to this is why is MSDF even looking at burdening tax payers to support a private company? PERIOD!!! Whatever they are telling you is obviously biased and ultimately is an unnecessary environmental issue. Please deny this request.

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Margaret Klotz <margaret.a.klotz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2023 7:22 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

Good morning,

I have been reading about the above bond proposal and have some serious doubts.

Is there any actual evidence that shows Michigan farmers will even experience lower prices?

Is there any actual evidence that shows the area aquifers can sustain the amount of water that needs to be withdrawn? Michigan's most precious resource is its Great Lakes and they should not be squandered for private gain as we have already done with the Nestle Corp.

Is there any actual evidence that the excess salt that will be produced can even be used? Or will it just become toxic waste that Michigan residents will have to live with?

These are just a few of the questions I have.

Margaret Klotz
9504 Chadwick Road
Laingsburg, MI 48848
517.927.3120

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: John Kormash <jmkorm@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

Hello,

I'm a 56 year native resident of Michigan. I urge the State of Michigan to not support the MPSC potash project and to not utilize MSF resources to help fund and incentivize this private Colorado company's proposed business here in the state.

The proposed 129 jobs that this project "MAY" bring to the state is not worth the damage to OUR environment. Our water is a precious resource of the people of the State of Michigan that will not last forever and should not be used for the financial benefit of a business.

Please do not support this project and do not utilize my tax dollars via the MSF to fund these type of activities. Current sources of potash are just fine.

Sincerely,

John Kormash
Rockford, MI

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Beverly Loudon <beverlyloudon@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2023 12:54 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

To the Michigan Strategic Fund,

I'm writing to express grave concern about the proposed activities of Michigan Potash to mine here in Michigan. The environmental impact, (to both human and wildlife), of this intended project could be massive, if this vulnerable terrain is subjected to widespread disruption and destruction. With water resources becoming increasingly at risk across our nation, it behoves us in Michigan to take extreme caution in protecting this essential and limited resource. Please have foresight here, and consider the high cost, for what could prove to be a low return. Thank you for your work on behalf of this great state.

Sincerely,

Beverly Loudon
16525 Glastonbury Rd.
Detroit, MI 48219

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Glenna Maneke <manekegl@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

Please do not support the mining of potash in Hersey, Michigan. There is no longer a need to replace the potash imports lost from the Russian and Ukrainian war. Canada, the main supplier of potash to the US, has increased and expanded production, filling the global gap that had been created over the last year. Thank you. Glenna Maneke
There is no reason to take such a risk.

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: SCOTT MCNABB <mcnabbs3@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 8:46 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: Don't Allow Potash Mining in MI

To: the MSF

I oppose the plan to permit potash mining in Michigan. I own property near the proposed location of this project, and it is clear to me that the wetlands near me are very fragile. I understand this project will affect millions of gallons of one of Michigan's most precious resources -- its fresh water, cause possible environmental damage, and cost Michigan over \$100 million. For these reasons, I strongly oppose this project.

Scott McNabb
Ada, MI

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Michaels in 398.2 <Michaels_Sanctuary@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 6:36 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

Please consider this email as a vote against the Colorado company taking tax payer money to destroy more of Michigan's precious water and land. It's simply unconscionable.

Most sincerely,

Julianne Michaels
3030 Beckon Road
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

"Insanity wasn't in our genes — we humans had gone off the rails because our culture had lost its source of external significance. We were so completely colonized by the belief that all meaning came down to economics and private consumption that it no longer even felt like a belief. We'd forgotten the fact that, in Gaylor Nelson's great phrase, "the economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, and not the other way around."

~ Richard Powers

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Peggy <hildaheron@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 11:51 AM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Cc: Christopher Cook (MEDC)
Subject: Comment for Michigan Strategic Fund re Michigan Potash & Salt private activity bond proposal
Attachments: questions_MSFC_2023_revised(1)-2.docx

To Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF),

These comments and questions are being submitted to MSF for the public hearing on the bond authorization request by Michigan Potash & Salt Company (MPSC) by the Board of **Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation** (saveMlwater.org). We understand this hearing may occur either on February 27 or 28, 2023. The attached version contains footnotes.

Comments:

The “Inducement Resolution” adopted by MSF for this project contains assertions drawn verbatim from MPSC’s application materials. Were those assertions independently verified? Has the economic viability of this project been independently evaluated, based on data other than the applicants’ assertions?

Are you aware of the 25-year history of efforts to mine this potash deposit by large, long-established and well capitalized mining companies? Why did those experienced mining companies give up on these potash deposits, and what evidence has been presented to show that an inexperienced start-up company, with “no official employees” can succeed where corporate giants have given up?

The huge, established potash mines just across the border in Saskatchewan have easy access to efficient rail transport. The proposed Michigan Potash project will transport exclusively by truck. What evidence is there that Michigan farmers would actually experience significantly lower prices for potash?

Given that potash prices in 2022 have declined considerably, and that analysts predict continuing declines in price, has MPSC revised its economic projections to consider reduced global prices?

MPSC’s financial projections assume potash output of 800-975 thousand tons per year (kt/y), yet their water withdrawal permit was based on projections 650 kt/y. How can they proceed without permits allowing them to draw sufficient fresh water to support their process? Has MSF or Citi Group received any evidence that the area’s aquifers can sustain the amount of water that would need to be withdrawn?

MPSC projects that it will produce approximately 1 million tons of Sodium Chloride (salt) annually as a “beneficial co-product” of the potash refining process. But, because Michigan already produces more salt than it uses, they hope to export their co-product out of state “market bearing.” Is there evidence that those out of state markets even exist?

Any salt MPSC is unable to sell is no longer a “beneficial co-product” but becomes toxic solid waste that must be redissolved in fresh water and disposed of deep underground, polluting, then removing that fresh water from the hydrologic cycle into perpetuity. Is it correct to say that by issuing these Private Activity Bonds, MSF is lending the state of Michigan’s good name and reputation to underwrite and encourage pollution, impairment and destruction of a public trust resource of the state?

How will MSF justify underwriting and encouraging this development without first knowing how much of a public trust resource would be destroyed in the process, and whether that sacrifice is warranted to create a mere 129 permanent jobs?

Huge Canadian mines have dramatically ramped up production capabilities in response to pandemic and Ukraine war-induced market disruptions. There is not, today, a potash shortage. What evidence has MPSC presented that global prices will remain sufficiently high to support their income projections? What evidence is there that the market is not correcting to reassert chronically low potash prices (from world-wide industry over-capacity)?

The US currently imports 85% of its potash from Canada. How will MPSC compete successfully against Canadian mines operating on a massive scale, in a much safer environment, and which enjoy direct rail access to America’s agricultural heartland?

Will MPSC receive its loan from the State of Michigan prior to the sale of these bonds, or will the loan be contingent on the sale of those bonds?

Will MSF’s decision consider environment, social and governance (ESG) factors? Does Citi Group Global analyze those factors in its underwriting decision? Has either MSF or Citi Group balanced the creation of 129 jobs against the real risk that well over 100 square miles of highly vulnerable terrain could be subjected to widespread environmental disruption and destruction? Or that residents may lose their sole supply of fresh water due to direct competition with the needs of a large solution-mine?

The project will be sited on rolling terrain, dotted with small wetlands, springs, creeks and seeps. At full build-out, it will require miles of high-volume brine pipelines continuously operating at 2000 psi over that terrain. Pipeline leaks are a known risk for solution mining operations. Considering the scope and geography of the projected 15,000 acre minefield, these pipelines will periodically be disassembled and transferred to new locations as new wells are constantly being drilled. Has either MSF or Citi Group factored in legal liability for operating a risky enterprise over such scattered, vulnerable and poorly suited terrain?

Despite repeated requests, the Osceola Planning Commission has been given no information on where and how the company plans to establish its brine pipelines and access roads, or how they plan to traverse private lands and public roadways. Further, they have not revealed any plans or procedures for dealing with brine contamination emergencies. Has MSF communicated with the Osceola County Planning Commission about the project and the impacts it will have on the area’s residents and public infrastructure?

While investors will bear a financial risk of default, should the project prove non-viable, local residents will likely be left “holding the bag” for aquifer depletion, groundwater contamination and other environmental damage in the event of bankruptcy. Neither EGLE nor EPA recognize any obligation to clean up contamination or to deal with destruction of area aquifers and domestic water wells. As a condition to issuing private activity bonds, can the MSF require the borrower to post an

“environmental performance bond” to make whole those who might sustain economic injury in event of bankruptcy?

Submitted by Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation Board of Directors

Peggy Case, President
PO Box 1
Mecosta, Mi 49332
info@saveMIwater.org

Questions for MSF Board RE: Michigan Potash and Salt Company Private Activity Bond Proposal

1. The “Inducement Resolution” adopted by MSF for this project contains assertions drawn verbatim from MPSC’s application materials. Were those assertions independently verified? Has the economic viability of this project been independently evaluated, based on data other than the applicants’ assertions?
2. Are you aware of the 25-year history of efforts to mine this potash deposit by large, long-established and well capitalized mining companies? Why did those experienced mining companies give up on these potash deposits, and what evidence has been presented to show that an inexperienced start-up company, with “no official employees” can succeed where corporate giants have given up?
3. The huge, established potash mines just across the border in Saskatchewan have easy access to efficient rail transport. The proposed Michigan Potash project will transport exclusively by truck. What evidence is there that Michigan farmers would actually experience significantly lower prices for potash?
4. Given that potash prices in 2022 have declined considerably, and that analysts predict continuing declines in price, has MPSC revised its economic projections to consider reduced global prices?¹
5. MPSC’s financial projections assume potash output of 800-975 thousand tons per year (kt/y), yet their water withdrawal permit was based on projections 650 kt/y.² How can they proceed without permits allowing them to draw sufficient fresh water to support their process?³ Has MSF or Citi Group received any evidence that the area’s aquifers can sustain the amount of water that would need to be withdrawn?
6. MPSC projects that it will produce approximately 1 million tons of Sodium Chloride (salt) annually as a “beneficial co-product” of the potash refining process. But, because Michigan

¹ See <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2022/12/22/2023-potash-outlook-see-supply-lower> : According to Samuel Taylor, inputs analyst for RaboResearch, the price outlook for potash in 2023 could be considerably lower. "I think we very easily could see a 25% to 30% decline in price on potash fertilizer in the U.S. in 2023," he is quoted as saying. Another analyst, Josh Linville, director of fertilizer at StoneX, said he also expects potash prices to slip in 2023: “Demand into the new year will struggle to overcome the downturn seen in 2022.” Linville said the potash market might even enter an oversupplied situation in the near future. "It is certainly a bearish situation (for prices)," Linville said. See also: <https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/new-report-predicts-more-stable-fertilizer-markets-for-2023>

² Michigan Potash Company originally registered with the state to withdraw 1,200 gallons per minute. Their announced potash output has nearly doubled since then.

³ MPSC has not published any studies affirming the capacity of local aquifers to sustain its operations at any production level, nor has it publicly announced how much fresh water their process will consume. Studies conducted in New York State show that sustained solution mining can and does lower the water table enough to significantly change the local environment.

already produces more salt than it uses, they hope to export their co-product out of state “market bearing.” Is there evidence that those out of state markets even exist?

7. Any salt MPSC is unable to sell is no longer a “beneficial co-product” but becomes toxic solid waste that must be redissolved in fresh water and disposed of deep underground, polluting, then removing that fresh water from the hydrologic cycle into perpetuity⁴. Is it correct to say that by issuing these Private Activity Bonds, MSF is lending the state of Michigan’s good name and reputation to underwrite and encourage pollution, impairment and destruction of a public trust resource of the state?
8. How will MSF justify underwriting and encouraging this development without first knowing how much of a public trust resource would be destroyed in the process, and whether that sacrifice is warranted to create a mere 129 permanent jobs?
9. Huge Canadian mines have dramatically ramped up production capabilities in response to pandemic and Ukraine war-induced market disruptions. There is not, today, a potash shortage. What evidence has MPSC presented that global prices will remain sufficiently high to support their income projections? What evidence is there that the market is not correcting to reassert chronically low potash prices (from world-wide industry over-capacity)?
10. The US currently imports 85% of its potash from Canada. How will MPSC compete successfully against Canadian mines operating on a massive scale, in a much safer environment, and which enjoy direct rail access to America’s agricultural heartland?
11. Will MPSC receive its loan from the State of Michigan prior to the sale of these bonds, or will the loan be contingent on the sale of those bonds?
12. Will MSF’s decision consider environment, social and governance (ESG) factors? Does Citi Group Global analyze those factors in its underwriting decision? Has either MSF or Citi Group balanced the creation of 129 jobs against the real risk that well over 100 square miles of highly vulnerable terrain could be subjected to widespread environmental disruption and destruction? Or that residents may lose their sole supply of fresh water due to direct competition with the needs of a large solution-mine?
13. The project will be sited on rolling terrain, dotted with small wetlands, springs, creeks and seeps. At full build-out, it will require miles of high-volume brine pipelines continuously operating at 2000 psi over that terrain. Pipeline leaks are a known risk for solution mining operations.⁵ Considering the scope and geography of the projected 15,000 acre minefield,

⁴ Salt is an unwelcome by-product of the potash solution-mining process. It will be a significant problem at MPSC’s location, where the ore deposit exists as a very thin layer embedded within in a massive salt deposit. Disposal of excess will require tremendous quantities of fresh water on top of the already massive consumption from the mining process itself.

⁵ “Because potash solution mining relies heavily on pumping water underground, there are environmental challenges that miners need to take into account. The process itself is intensive in terms of water usage, and the

these pipelines will periodically be disassembled and transferred to new locations as new wells are constantly being drilled. Has either MSF or Citi Group factored in legal liability for operating a risky enterprise over such scattered, vulnerable and poorly suited terrain?

14. Despite repeated requests, the Osceola Planning Commission has been given no information on where and how the company plans to establish its brine pipelines and access roads, or how they plan to traverse private lands and public roadways. Further, they have not revealed any plans or procedures for dealing with brine contamination emergencies. Has MSF communicated with the Osceola County Planning Commission about the project and the impacts it will have on the area's residents and public infrastructure?
15. While investors will bear a financial risk of default, should the project prove non-viable, local residents will likely be left "holding the bag" for aquifer depletion, groundwater contamination and other environmental damage in the event of bankruptcy. Neither EGLE nor EPA recognize any obligation to clean up contamination or to deal with destruction of area aquifers and domestic water wells. As a condition to issuing private activity bonds, can the MSF require the borrower to post an "environmental performance bond" to make whole those who might sustain economic injury in event of bankruptcy?

contamination of nearby water sources like aquifers is a real risk if solutions leak." [Agriculture Investing News, 8/21/18]

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Rebecca <rebeccainreedcity@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2023 12:03 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm deeply concerned to hear of yet another effort, on the part of private interests, to use taxpayers dollars to endanger the resources on which human and other life depends. I urge you to look at the larger global picture (in terms of the increasing water shortage) and to take responsibility for protecting the freshwater resources of this area and of Michigan as a whole. How could a company's interests in mining a product (that Canada has shown the ability to supply) possibly be more highly valued than protection of clean, fresh water?

I am a resident of Osceola County and am distressed to hear that a project involving this kind of risk and expense, has been a receiving the support of my tax dollars! I intend to continue educating myself on this issue and speaking with friends, neighbors, family and local leaders, about the endangerment of their local, natural resources and use of their taxes to pour money into the pockets of MPSC (and anyone they manage to use as pawns). I trust those who have power in this decision will wake up to their responsibility to the public.

Following are points of which I have been made aware and I will continue to pursue additional information. I urge you to do the same.

1. The "Inducement Resolution" adopted by MSF for this project contains assertions drawn verbatim from MPSC's application materials. Were those assertions independently verified? Has the economic viability of this project been independently evaluated, based on data other than the applicants' assertions?
2. Are you aware of the 25-year history of efforts to mine this potash deposit by large, long-established and well capitalized mining companies? Why did those experienced mining companies give up on these potash deposits, and what evidence has been presented to show that an inexperienced start-up company, with "no official employees" can succeed where corporate giants have given up?
3. The huge, established potash mines just across the border in Saskatchewan have easy access to efficient rail transport. The proposed Michigan Potash project will transport exclusively by truck. What evidence is there that Michigan farmers would actually experience significantly lower prices for potash?
4. Given that potash prices in 2022 have declined considerably, and that analysts predict continuing declines in price, has MPSC revised its economic projections to consider reduced global prices?
5. MPSC's financial projections assume potash output of 800-975 thousand tons per year (kt/y), yet their water withdrawal permit was based on projections 650 kt/y.² How can they proceed without

permits allowing them to draw sufficient fresh water to support their process?³ Has MSF or Citi Group received any evidence that the area's aquifers can sustain the amount of water that would need to be withdrawn?

6. MPSC projects that it will produce approximately 1 million tons of Sodium Chloride (salt) annually as a "beneficial co-product" of the potash refining process. But, because Michigan already produces more salt than it uses, they hope to export their co-product out of state "market bearing." Is there evidence that those out of state markets even exist?
7. Any salt MPSC is unable to sell is no longer a "beneficial co-product" but becomes toxic solid waste that must be redissolved in fresh water and disposed of deep underground, polluting, then removing that fresh water from the hydrologic cycle into perpetuity.⁴ Is it correct to say that by issuing these Private Activity Bonds, MSF is lending the state of Michigan's good name and reputation to underwrite and encourage pollution, impairment and destruction of a public trust resource of the state?
8. How will MSF justify underwriting and encouraging this development without first knowing how much of a public trust resource would be destroyed in the process, and whether that sacrifice is warranted to create a mere 129 permanent jobs?
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11. Will MPSC receive its loan from the State of Michigan prior to the sale of these bonds, or will the loan be contingent on the sale of those bonds?
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14. Despite repeated requests, the Osceola Planning Commission has been given no information on where and how the company plans to establish its brine pipelines and access roads, or how they

plan to traverse private lands and public roadways. Further, they have not revealed any plans or procedures for dealing with brine contamination emergencies. Has MSF communicated with the Osceola County Planning Commission about the project and the impacts it will have on the area's residents and public infrastructure?

15. While investors will bear a financial risk of default, should the project prove non-viable, local residents will likely be left "holding the bag" for aquifer depletion, groundwater contamination and other environmental damage in the event of bankruptcy. Neither EGLE nor EPA recognize any obligation to clean up contamination or to deal with destruction of area aquifers and domestic water wells. As a condition to issuing private activity bonds, can the MSF require the borrower to post an "environmental performance bond" to make whole those who might sustain economic injury in event of bankruptcy?

Thank you for considering this message. I urge you again, to protect our precious waters and wetlands

Rebecca Stieg
(Resident of Reed City, Michigan)

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: Yeardley <yeardleywells@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 4:04 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: re: the Michigan Potash & Salt Company private activity bond proposal

Dear Michigan Strategic Fund,

I just want to state that I am AGAINST funding the Michigan Potash & Salt Company. They will pollute our drinking water and leave us taxpayers holding the bag. We do not need potash from here since we get plenty from Canada. This project will only hurt us, not help us. Plus, they have not even shown the Osceola Planning Commission their plans for how they're going to operate. Why should they get funding and the ability to fleece taxpayers when they can't even show us their plan? If many experienced companies have tried (and failed) to dig for potash in the past, then why should this company get a taxpayer-funded pass to wreak havoc on our drinking water?

A huge portion of Michigan's economy relies on the beautiful nature we have here. We get way more money and jobs from the tourism and fishing here, much more than the 129 jobs the potash project would supposedly create. From a money point of view, this project would cause Michigan to lose money, not gain it.

I respectfully ask that the MSF decline funding the Michigan Potash & Salt Company.

Thank you.

--YW

Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)

From: probablyjay@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Katelyn Wilcox (MEDC)
Subject: Potash Mining

MSF Board Liaison,

I am against the plan to permit potash mining in Michigan. This type of mining is extremely destructive to the environment. Millions of gallons of water will be affected by the pollution caused by this activity. Mining operations almost always cause environmental damage that the taxpayers end up paying for. This is just a few of the many reasons I am against this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Jay Machielse
Grand Blanc, MI