

**MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
APPROVED SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2022**

Members Present

Susan Corbin
Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba)
Quentin L. Messer, Jr.

Members joined remotely

Britany L. Affolter-Caine
Ronald W. Beebe
Paul Gentilozzi
Dimitrius Hutcherson
Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks)
Charles P. Rothstein

Members Absent

Susan Tellier
Cindy Warner

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mr. Messer called the meeting to order at 9:30 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. He thanked members for taking the time to participate in the special board meeting.

Mr. Messer provided an overview of the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund, components of contract agreements for projects, and the legislative process for transfer of funds from the SOAR Fund to the Critical Industry Program and the Strategic Site Readiness Program.

Mr. Messer introduced Katelyn Wilcox Surmann, MSF Board Liaison, who conducted the attendance roll call.

Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, and Paul Gentilozzi joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m. and 9:35 a.m., respectively.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wilcox Surmann explained the process for members of the public to participate. Gary McDowell, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, spoke in support of the Muskegon Wastewater Pipeline project.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

The MSF Board received several letters of support for the projects being considered, which are attached to the minutes. The letters include:

Gotion Inc.

Economic Development Leaders for Michigan (EDLM)

Muskegon Wastewater Pipeline Project

State Senator Jon Bumstead
State Senator Roger Victory
State Representative Luke Meerman
State Representative Terry Sabo

State Representative Greg VanWoerkom
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
Michigan Farm Bureau
Consumers Energy
Applegate Dairy, LLC
Continental Dairy Facilities, LLC
fairlife, LLC
Swanson Pickle Co.
City of Coopersville
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Leaders for Michigan (EDLM)
Grand Rapids Chamber
Greater Muskegon Economic Development
Lakeshore Advantage
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce
Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management Committee (representing 18 municipalities)
White Lake Area Chamber

Our Next Energy, Inc. (ONE)

Detroit Regional Partnership
Detroit Region Aerotropolis
Wayne County Economic Development

MSF Subcommittee Reports

Ronald W. Beebe, chair of the MSF Finance and Investment Subcommittee, reported members met several times over the last month to discuss SOAR-related projects. Subcommittee members recommend approval of award recommendations to support the Gotion, Inc. and Muskegon Wastewater Pipeline projects. However, the Our Next Energy project was recently introduced to them, and they took no action on it.

Cindy Warner, chair of the MSF Policy and Planning Subcommittee, was unable to attend the meeting. Britany L. Affolter-Caine reported the subcommittee has not met over the last month.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 2022-153 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Mr. Messer asked if there were any questions from Board members regarding items under the Consent Agenda. There being none, Michael B. Kapp motioned for the approval of the following:

- a. Proposed Meeting Minutes: September 27, 2022
- b. Proposed Meeting Minutes: September 29, 2022

Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

V. ATTRACT, RETAIN AND GROW BUSINESS

- a. **Resolutions 2022-154, 2022-155 & 2022-156 Gotion, Inc. / The Right Place Inc. / Big Rapids Charter Township and Green Charter Township / Mecosta County: Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant, Critical Industry Program Grant, and MSF-Designated Renaissance Zone**

Jeremy Webb, Interim Managing Director of Business Development Projects, provided the Board with information regarding these action items. The actions involve approval of a \$50,000,000 Strategic Site Readiness Program performance-based grant and a \$125,000,000 Critical Industry Program performance-based grant through the SOAR Fund, a MSF Designated Renaissance Zone for 30 years, and payment in lieu of taxes to Big Rapids Charter Township, Green Charter Township, or Mecosta County, or any combination thereof, for reimbursement of the real property taxes abated by the renaissance zone designation for their respective jurisdictions, to support a business development project in Mecosta County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of up to \$2,364,000,000 and the creation of up to 2,350 jobs. Following discussion, Susan Corbin motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-154. Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

Quentin L. Messer, Jr. then motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-155. Michael B. Kapp seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

Finally, Ronald W. Beebe motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-156. Quentin L. Messer, Jr. seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

b. Resolution 2022-157 Muskegon County: Strategic Site Readiness Program Grant (Muskegon Wastewater Pipeline Project)

Josh Hundt, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer, provided the Board with information regarding this action item. The action involves approval of a Strategic Site Readiness Program performance-based grant through the SOAR Fund to support a wastewater transport and disposal services project that will benefit the City of Coopersville and Polkton Charter Township in Ottawa County, and the Village of Ravenna and Ravenna Township in Muskegon County. Businesses expected to benefit include fairlife, LLC, Continental Dairy Facilities, LLC, DeVries Meats Inc., Applegate Dairy, LLC, and Swanson Pickle Co., which plan to invest at least \$187,000,000 and create 145 jobs related to the project. Following discussion, Susan Corbin motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-157. Quentin L. Messer, Jr. seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

c. **Resolutions 2022-158, 2022-159 & 2022-160 Our Next Energy, Inc. (ONE): Critical Industry Program Grant, State Essential Services Assessment Exemption, and Jobs for Michigan Investment Fund Loan**

Josh Hundt, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer, provided the Board with information regarding these action items. The actions involve approval of a \$200,000,000 Critical Industry Program performance-based grant through the SOAR Fund, fifteen year State Essential Services Assessment exemption valued at up to \$21,655,020, and a \$15,000,000 Jobs for Michigan Investment Fund loan to support a business development project in VanBuren Charter Township, Wayne County. The project is expected to result in total capital investment of up to \$1,600,000,000 and the creation of up to 1,112 jobs. Following discussion, Dimitrius Hutcherson motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-158. Quentin L. Messer Jr. seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused; 1 abstained**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None; Abstained: Ronald W. Beebe

Susan Corbin then motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-159. Quentin L. Messer, Jr. seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

Finally, Britany L. Affolter-Caine motioned for the approval of Resolution 2022-160. Dimitrius Hutcherson seconded the motion. **The motion carried: 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 recused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Britany L. Affolter-Caine, Ronald W. Beebe, Susan Corbin, Paul Gentilozzi, Dimitrius Hutcherson, Michael B. Kapp (on behalf of Director Ajegba, designation attached), Andrew Lockwood (on behalf of Treasurer Eubanks, designation attached), Quentin L. Messer, Jr., Charles P. Rothstein; Nays: None; Recused: None

Mr. Messer adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PAUL AJEGBA
DIRECTOR

February 3, 2020

Ms. Rhonda Bishop
Board Relations Liaison
Michigan Strategic Fund Office
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Ms. Bishop:

I hereby confirm and ratify my designation of Michael B. Kapp, Administrator, Michigan Department of Transportation, as the person authorized and empowered to act in my stead for Michigan Strategic Fund meetings that I am unable to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul C. Ajegba".

Paul C. Ajegba, P.E.
Director

cc: M. Kapp
Executive File



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



*Economic Development
Leaders for Michigan*

September 22, 2022

Rob Cleveland
President & CEO
Cornerstone Alliance

JoAnn Crary
President
Saginaw Future Inc.

Marty Fittante
CEO
Invest UP

Kevin Johnson
President & CEO
Detroit Economic Growth
Corporation

Maureen Krauss
President & CEO
Detroit Regional Partnership

Paul Krutko
President & CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK

James McBryde
President & CEO
Middle Michigan Development
Corporation

Jennifer Owens
President
Lakeshore Advantage

Jonas Peterson
CEO
Southwest Michigan First

Tyler Rossmassler
Executive Director
Flint & Genesee Economic
Alliance

Randy Thelen
President & CEO
The Right Place, Inc.

Bob Trezise
President & CEO
LEAP

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

On behalf of the members of Economic Development Leaders for Michigan, thank you for your consideration of transformational projects through the SOAR Fund process. We support your efforts to attract businesses to secure the future of Michigan's economy and create jobs for our workforce.

We expect your September 27 agenda to include a SOAR request on behalf of an internationally publicly traded company (known as Project Elephant) — one of the ten largest advanced battery manufacturers in the world. This business is choosing to locate a large battery manufacturing facility in Big Rapids, Michigan. The company proposes producing their battery materials here, specifically the anode and cathode components, which are the highest value-added pieces of new lithium-ion batteries. The anode and cathode produced in Big Rapids will support a wide array of customers, including automotive and utilities. The company is looking to invest over \$3.6 billion in a four-phase, multi-year development that will eventually employ over 2,000 people from across West Michigan. The company could break ground in 2023 with a goal of being operational by the end of 2024.

The company underwent an exhaustive due diligence process, having carefully considered over 40 locations across the United States for a domestic manufacturing facility and determined that Michigan, and the Big Rapids site in particular, is an ideal place to grow its U.S. operations.

The company recognized the area's strong work ethic and partnership opportunities with Ferris State University's world-class industrial tech programs as key factors in its decision-making process.

The site under consideration has long been held as a place for industrial investment by the community. Assembled and developed nearly 25 years ago, the community has been prepared for such an opportunity as this to materialize to utilize the infrastructure, airport, access to freeways and locally trained talent pool. Sites of this nature are in short supply across the country.

We strongly urge the Michigan Strategic Fund to approve a SOAR Fund transfer to invest in this unique opportunity for Michigan.

Sincerely,



*Economic Development
Leaders for Michigan*

Rob Cleveland
*President & CEO
Cornerstone Alliance*

Rob Cleveland
President & CEO, Cornerstone Alliance

JoAnn Crary
*President
Saginaw Future Inc.*

JoAnn Crary
President, Saginaw Future, Inc

Marty Fittante
*CEO
Invest UP*

Marty Fittante
CEO, Invest UP

Kevin Johnson
*President & CEO
Detroit Economic Growth
Corporation*

Kevin Johnson
*President & CEO, Detroit Economic Growth
Corp*

Maureen Krauss
*President & CEO
Detroit Regional Partnership*

Maureen Donohue Krauss
President & CEO, Detroit Regional Partnership

Paul Krutko
*President & CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK*

Paul Krutko
President & CEO, Ann Arbor Spark

James McBryde
*President & CEO
Middle Michigan Development
Corporation*

James McBryde
*President & CEO, Middle Michigan
Development Corp*

Jennifer Owens
*President
Lakeshore Advantage*

Jennifer Owens
President, Lakeshore Advantage

Jonas Peterson
*CEO
Southwest Michigan First*

Jonas Peterson
CEO, Southwest Michigan First

Tyler Rossmassler
*Executive Director
Flint & Genesee Economic
Alliance*

Tyler Rossmassler
*Executive Director, Flint & Genesee Economic
Alliance*

Randy Thelen
*President & CEO
The Right Place, Inc.*

Randy Thelen
President & CEO, The Right Place

Bob Trezise
*President & CEO
LEAP*

Bob Trezise
President & CEO, LEAP



JON BUMSTEAD

34TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-1635

FAX: (517) 373-3300

senjbumstead@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

September 19, 2022

Michigan Economic Development Corporation
ATTN: CEO Quentin Messer Jr.
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Messer,

This letter is written in support of the Muskegon – Coopersville wastewater pipeline project, currently under consideration by the Michigan Strategic Fund.

Over the years my office in conjunction with other legislative offices, departments, local elected officials, business leaders, and employees have been working to find a solution to the wastewater issue that many agricultural businesses in the Coopersville and Muskegon area are facing.

Currently, the Coopersville wastewater treatment facility is not equipped to handle the overall wastewater need of their residents and the agricultural businesses need in the area. This lack of capacity and prohibitive costs to expand this facility has been an ongoing problem for the growth of this West Michigan region. Without a creative solution to this problem many of these agribusinesses will not be able to meet environmental safety standards as set by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), which will force these businesses which are currently looking to grow and expand.

The Muskegon County's Resource Recovery Center (MCCR) is currently only treating about one-third of its total capacity. Creating a pipeline from Coopersville to the MCCR will allow for these businesses to connect to the MCCR for treatment and give them the ability to meet standards and the opportunity to grow and expand. This project has the potential to have a lasting impact on the future of the agricultural industry in this region.

In addition to many others who have supported this project, I would like to add my support and ask that the Michigan Strategic Fund approve the Coopersville-Muskegon wastewater pipeline 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 34



THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

ROGER VICTORY
30TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-8920
FAX: (517) 373-2751
senrvictory@senate.michigan.gov

September 21, 2022

Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members:

I write you today in support of the Coopersville-Muskegon pipeline expansion project. The construction of this pipeline will help to address a major issue that has limited the growth of longstanding and successful agriculturally based businesses in the West Michigan Region.

The pipeline will have an immediate impact on Michigan's often overlooked Agricultural Industry. It will allow major dairy processors, Continental Dairy and FairLife, to increase production here in Michigan and purchase more milk from our long-suffering dairy farms across the state. It will also allow for increased protein processing at DeVries Meats, which in addition to supporting local pork producers will help shorten Michigan's overall food supply chain and drive down food costs for hardworking Michiganders. A planned industrial park along the pipeline will also offer more opportunities for expansion and growth outside of the agriculture sector.

This project, while being economically driven, is an investment in the communities of Muskegon and Coopersville. The Coopersville water treatment facility is at capacity and poses a serious environmental concern. Redirecting wastewater from FairLife and Continental up to the under-utilized Muskegon facility will allow both water treatment centers to operate more efficiently and in compliance with environmental regulations. The reduced capacity at Coopersville will also provide opportunities for residential and non-industrial growth within the city's service area.

The access to large scale, reliable, and environmentally sound wastewater treatment continues to be a major limiting factor for growth across our state. This large site preparedness project helps to not only increase production for stable local businesses but creates a long-term community-centered pro-growth environment that will improve the life and livelihoods of Michiganders for generations.

I strongly encourage your approval of the Coopersville-Muskegon pipeline and will continue to work to secure the necessary SOAR transfer through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Victory".

Roger Victory
State Senator
30th District



92ND DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-2646
FAX: (517) 373-9646
E-MAIL: TerrySabo@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TERRY J. SABO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:
WORKFORCE, TRADES, AND TALENT (MVC)
APPROPRIATIONS –
GENERAL GOVERNMENT (MVC)
CORRECTIONS
TRANSPORTATION

September 19, 2022

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
Chairperson, Michigan Strategic Fund Board
300 N. Washington Sq
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Chairperson Messer,

I write today urging your full support of a request from Muskegon County leaders as well as Southeast Regional Force Main stakeholders for the approval of \$60 million in Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) funding toward the Southeast Regional Force Main expansion project.

Specifically, I hope you, along with the rest of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members will approve these incentives at the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, September 27th. This \$60 million investment will help support west Michigan regional growth and create more than 100 jobs over a three-year period.

I have personally worked on and supported this project for over 10 years dating back to 2013 when I was Chair of the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners. Notably, the benefits of this project to Muskegon County would be two-fold. The project would greatly expand the Muskegon County Wastewater Treatment Facility while also stabilizing wastewater treatment costs for Muskegon County residential users!

This is a great opportunity to ensure further economic development and there is no doubt that this project will benefit the entire greater Muskegon area. Please support these incentives in the upcoming MSF Board Meeting.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Sabo
State Representative
District 92-Muskegon



88TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LUKE MEERMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-1830
FAX: (517) 373-0292
LukeMeerman@house.mi.gov
www.RepMeerman.com

September 27, 2022

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
Chairperson
Michigan Strategic Fund Board
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Chairperson Messer,

I am writing to lend my formal support for the Coopersville-Muskegon Wastewater Infrastructure Proposal. Funding this project will provide a ripe opportunity for investment and economic growth in the Counties of Ottawa and Muskegon.

The City of Coopersville is a strong agricultural community and is home to many agricultural producers that rely on the City's wastewater treatment facility to operate. Due to agricultural investment from cash crops, dairy producers and food processors, business growth has strained and exceeded the capacity of the City's wastewater treatment facility.

To address this limitation, the economic development agencies in the Counties of Ottawa and Muskegon have developed a proposal to connect the City of Coopersville to the wastewater treatment facility in Muskegon County. The wastewater treatment facility in Muskegon County has the capacity to treat the wastewater from the City's agricultural producers and its residential population without straining its infrastructure. By connecting the City to this treatment facility, not only will local producers be able to expand operations without constraint, greater residential investment can be made to this growing municipality.

Due to the current strain on the City's wastewater treatment facility, local producers are forced to look elsewhere to expand operations. This will cost the City and region valuable job opportunities that only business investment can provide. I enthusiastically support this proposal, which will set up both Ottawa and Muskegon County for success for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luke A Meerman".

Luke Meerman
State Representative, 88th District



91ST DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GREG VANWOERKOM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-3436
FAX: (517) 373-9698
Greg.VanWoerkom@house.mi.gov
www.frep.vanwoerkom.com

September 20, 2022

Michigan Strategic Fund
ATTN: Quentin Messer, Chair
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Chairman Messer,

I am writing to lend my formal support for the Coopersville-Muskegon Wastewater Infrastructure Proposal. I believe that this project has the potential to provide significant benefits to Muskegon and Ottawa Counties.

The City of Coopersville is home to many agricultural producers that rely on the city's wastewater treatment facility to operate. The large quantity of wastewater being produced has reached an unsustainable level. This limited wastewater capacity has acted as a barrier for growth for many of these businesses and hindered potential economic investment in the area.

To address this limitation, the economic development agencies in the counties of Ottawa and Muskegon have developed a proposal to connect the City of Coopersville to the wastewater treatment facility in Muskegon County. The wastewater treatment facility in Muskegon County has the capacity to treat the wastewater from the city's agricultural producers and its residential population without straining its infrastructure. This solution would drastically increase the carrying capacity without requiring a new treatment facility to be built and maintained.

I look forward to solving this growing issue and helping improve our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Greg VanWoerkom
State Representative – District 91



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL
DIRECTOR

September 20, 2022


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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is supportive of the Muskegon-Coopersville Wastewater line and funding for this extremely important project. This project will have a significant impact for the food and agriculture industry in Michigan and particularly West Michigan.

The agriculture industry plays a significant role in the state's economy; with the food and agriculture sector contributing \$104.7 billion annually. In addition to revenue, Michigan's food and agriculture system is a large portion of the state's workforce. Total employment of approximately 805,000 employees accounts for 17 percent of the state's economy. Michigan is home to 2,400 food and beverage processors who contribute to the economy annually. Michigan boasts more than 48,000 farms and over 10 million cultivated acres. Funding for this project is critical to support several agriculture sectors including dairy, meat, fruit, and vegetable processing.

Michigan is number one in the production of 14 different commodities and in the top 10 for another 24 commodities. These rankings show the diversity and importance of production in many commodity areas. Michigan ranks number one in the U.S. in cucumber production with nearly 30 percent of the country's total production. The livestock industry, including dairy production, has the greatest economic impact at \$5.13 billion; followed closely by crops with an economic impact of \$5.12 billion. The new wastewater pipeline from Coopersville to Muskegon is a critical piece of infrastructure that will help Michigan's extremely diverse agriculture and food industry continue to grow and expand.

Sincerely,

Gary McDowell
Director

September 26, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

Michigan Farm Bureau is writing to voice its support to the Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater line as it appears on your September 27 board meeting agenda. Michigan Farm Bureau members have long supported a strong and growing agricultural processing industry in Michigan. The food and agriculture industry is an important part of the state's economy, contributing \$101.2 billion annually. This \$60 million infrastructure investment is an opportunity to further grow agricultural processing, providing additional market access for our members and helping to maintain a strong and vibrant agricultural economy.

We strongly encourage you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund to the Coopersville-Muskegon wastewater line. Doing so will allow several agri-business and food processing operations to expand their operations in the region, fueling growth at local dairies, cold storage facilities and otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration of this investment to keep Michigan's agricultural and food processing sectors growing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loren Koeman'.

Loren Koeman
Lead Economist/Manager Industry, Conservation and Regulatory Relations
Michigan Farm Bureau

September 19, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

Consumers Energy writing to voice its support to the Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater line a reality at your September 27 board meeting. This \$60 million infrastructure investment would boost jobs and business growth in Michigan and specifically in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties.

Lack of adequate wastewater capacity in this region is a barrier to economic growth. Currently, the City of Coopersville and the Village of Ravena provide wastewater services to several local businesses who are looking to grow in West Michigan. However, they are not likely to make these investments in the region without the infrastructure or resources available to accommodate their existing and future wastewater needs.

This must be addressed for the region to move forward. Because the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center has excess capacity to serve these neighboring employers and the surrounding communities, it only makes sense to invest in infrastructure to connect these two areas.

We strongly encourage you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund to the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line. Doing so will allow a number of agri-business and food processing operations to expand their operations in the region, fueling growth at local dairies, cold storage facilities and otherwise.

Using the SOAR fund for this purpose matches the legislative intent of the program: to secure transformational business retention and attraction projects and provide a historic opportunity for growth across Michigan. We encourage your support for this \$60 million investment.

Sincerely,

Rich Houtteman, Community Affairs Manager
Consumers Energy

Greg Stahl
Owner
Applegate Dairy
4812 Wunsch Rd
Ravenna, MI 49451

September 9, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

On behalf of Applegate Dairy and our dairy farmer partners across the state, thank you for your consideration of a SOAR Fund investment benefitting Michigan's agricultural and food processing businesses. Applegate Dairy (formerly DenDulk Dairy) has operated in Muskegon County since 1996. We are proud to supply our state and country with high quality raw milk and grain.

As local employers, we strongly support the construction of the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure. Our area is currently underserved, and the lack of wastewater capacity is the main barrier to growth for our business. The completion of the force main connecting to the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center will have transformational impacts on the success and growth of every dairy in Michigan, as well as the City of Coopersville, Muskegon County, Ottawa County, and the entire State of Michigan.

With this infrastructure in place, Applegate Dairy expects to expand. We'd invest approximately \$40 million in a new building, \$2 million in new equipment, and another \$2 million to build out an upstream feed processing facility. Additionally, the completion of the force main will allow us to expand a regional methane harvesting operation with our completed biodigester. This growth impacts our operation, as well as those of partnering dairy farmers who supply Applegate Dairy.

Thank you for your consideration of funding for Muskegon County to develop the force main. Applegate Dairy has already contributed millions in initial engineering fees to study this project, and has constructed a lift station to access the mainline, reducing the overall cost. Wastewater engineers have priced the project at \$65 million, and we thank our neighbor, fairlife, for their \$5 million commitment to reduce the needed SOAR Fund investment to \$60 million. This investment in West Michigan's farms and food processors will shore up our regional economy and our agricultural sector statewide.

We look forward to moving this project forward with your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Stahl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Greg Stahl
Applegate Dairy



Steve Cooper
President
Continental Dairy Facilities
999 W. Randall Street
Coopersville, MI 49404

September 15, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

Thank you for your current consideration of a SOAR Fund investment benefitting Michigan's agricultural and food processing businesses by developing a wastewater solution in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties. Continental Dairy Facilities is headquartered in Coopersville, Michigan and provides grade A, Gold Star quality milk products to manufacturers across the country and around the world. Our operation produces 300,000 pounds of nonfat dry milk per day, and exports products globally. We currently employ 130 in Michigan, and partner with dairy farmers throughout the state.

As a local business with global reach, we strongly support the construction of the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure. At this time, our business is served by the wastewater treatment plant operated by the City of Coopersville. As our facility has grown over the years, along with fairlife's facility adjacent to our site, the wastewater we produce as significant industrial users has exceeded the capacity the Coopersville plant is able to treat. In order to continue to serve our needs long-term, the plant would require an upgrade costing as much as \$65 million to complete. The upgrade, if implemented, would cause user rates to soar across Coopersville's system. From our vantage point, the best possible solution is to connect our area to the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center. For a similar cost, the completion of the force main will have transformational effects on our entire region and will allow Continental and others in our industry to maintain operations in Michigan.

Thank you for your offer of \$60 million in funding for Muskegon County to develop the force main. Your investment in West Michigan's farms and food processors will shore up our regional economy and our agricultural sector statewide.

Sincerely,

Steve Cooper
President, Continental Dairy Facilities



Tim Doelman
Chief Executive Officer
1001 West Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60607

September 22, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

On behalf of fairlife, thank you for your commitment to growing jobs and economic opportunity for the residents of the State of Michigan.

fairlife brands are growing at a rapid pace. The demand for our products has greatly outpaced our manufacturing capacity. To meet that demand, fairlife would like to promptly launch a two-phased expansion project at our location in Coopersville, Michigan that will ultimately increase our capacity by 35 million cases per year.

The ideal situation for fairlife would be to expand our Coopersville facility to meet increased demand. We are proud of our local relationships, and of the 280 talented Michigan employees we have invested in developing. However, the one barrier to our expansion here in Michigan is a lack of adequate wastewater capacity. Currently, the City of Coopersville provides wastewater services to fairlife. Coopersville simply does not have the infrastructure or resources available to accommodate fairlife's existing or future wastewater needs.

Working with the local municipalities, employers, state agencies, and economic development organizations, we have identified a viable solution. Muskegon County has the capacity to serve fairlife, several neighboring employers, and the surrounding communities with the construction of a Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater line. If the Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater line project moves forward, we at fairlife have the strongest possible expectation that our future growth will occur at the Coopersville site. This expansion includes an immediate investment of \$160 million for a Phase I expansion of our production line, with additional opportunities on the horizon. Without a wastewater solution, we will be forced to consider alternate sites for future growth, such as Texas where our business partners have a facility with the necessary wastewater infrastructure already in place.

Thank you for your efforts to secure the funding Muskegon County requires to make the Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater line a reality. Wastewater engineers have suggested that \$65 million is the total cost of the investment. fairlife has committed to supporting this infrastructure expansion direction with a \$5 million private investment, reducing the required SOAR fund investment to \$60 million. In the interim, we stand ready to execute temporary solutions for our wastewater so we can begin our expansion plans at our Coopersville facility in the near term. Our hope for this transformational investment in wastewater infrastructure is that

farmland remains productive, Michigan's agricultural and food processing sectors grow, and our regional economy flourishes.

Please let me know if you require any additional information or have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Doelman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim Doelman
Chief Executive Officer, fairlife

Swanson Pickle Co., Inc.
Swanson Grading & Brining, Inc.
11561 Heights Ravenna Road
PO Box 211
Ravenna, MI 49451
Phone (231) 853-2289



September 9, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

On behalf of Swanson Pickle Co., thank you for your commitment to thriving regional economies in our state. We appreciate the opportunity to bring your focus to eastern Muskegon County, where our family farm has operated for four generations. Michigan is a diverse agricultural state, and the number one grower of pickling cucumbers in the United States. In addition to pickles, Swanson Pickle Co. also farms soybeans, wheat, and hay. We contribute to the food supply of our area and our country, and support a diverse workforce in our region.

As local employers, we strongly support the implementation of the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure which would allow Swanson Pickle Co. and other local food processors to connect to the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center. This infrastructure would enable our business to grow and increase our brining operation. Our investment expectation for this expansion would be \$850,000-1,050,000 – a large amount for our family farm. Additionally, Swanson Pickle Co. recently cooperated with EGLE on a project to create a new liquid waste stream, which we are currently hauling in a tanker over the road. Access to the force main would ensure a more economical route to the wastewater treatment facility, with less wear and tear on our roads.

Thank you for your efforts to secure the funding Muskegon County requires to develop this wastewater infrastructure. We are also grateful for the \$5 million investment our colleagues at Fairlife have promised in support of the project. Wastewater engineers have priced the project at \$65 million, and Fairlife's investment reduces the needed SOAR fund investment to \$60 million. This transformational investment in West Michigan's farms and food processors will uplift our local economy as it allows our operations to grow and supports our agricultural sector.

We look forward to working together to keep Michigan on the map.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Hensley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Hensley
Chief Financial Officer, Swanson Pickle Co.

CITY OF COOPERSVILLE

289 Danforth Street
Coopersville MI 49404-1204
Telephone: (616) 997-9731 • Facsimile: (616) 997-6679
www.cityofcoopersville.com



9-12-22

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

Subject: Muskegon Pipeline Impact on the City of Coopersville

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

The intent of this letter is to express the significant positive impact that the Muskegon Pipeline would have on the City of Coopersville and our wastewater facility.

Coopersville is fortunate to have two major food processing industries within our City. The two industries are identified as Continental Dairy and fairlife. The two industries are Significant Industrial Users (SIU) connected to our small municipal wastewater facility. The two industries continue to grow within the City, providing hundreds of jobs and supporting numerous area dairy farmers by purchasing their milk. There are far too many benefits to list by having these two industries within our community. Let's not forget the unequivocal benefits of having their products sold nationwide.

The impact that every business we have within the City of Coopersville is extremely valued. The success of our local businesses is crucial to the future of our community. Every private residence and business greatly rely on the amenities that the City of Coopersville provides. Often, the simple pleasures of water and sewer are overlooked until they are unavailable or maxed out to capacity.

Being a smaller municipality with a population of 4,828, produces a daily average of 0.52 MGD of municipal waste comes with some challenges. The two SIU's are permitted to send a combined total of 1.2 MGD of waste to our facility. However, the daily average between the two industries regularly exceeds their NPDES permit. Which results in the City frequently having to issue fines to our two major food processing industries due to operating outside of their permit.

CITY OF COOPERSVILLE

289 Danforth Street
Coopersville MI 49404-1204
Telephone: (616) 997-9731 • Facsimile: (616) 997-6679
www.cityofcoopersville.com



Our wastewater facility simply does not have the capacity to handle what our two major food processing users need to continue growing in West Michigan. A recent study of our wastewater facility performed by Donohue & Associates estimated that we would need to invest between \$35 million to \$65 million dollars into our plant to meet the current and future needs of the City.

The construction of the Muskegon Pipeline will substantially help the City of Coopersville and all of our users. The Muskegon Resource Recovery Treatment Facility has ample capacity available for not only our immediate current needs, but future growth as well to ensure long-term success for the entire region.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or comments regarding the great impact that the Muskegon Pipeline would have in our community

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Luce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dennis Luce
City Manager
City of Coopersville



September 8, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is writing to voice its support to the Muskegon-Coopersville wastewater line a reality at your September 27 board meeting. This \$60 million infrastructure investment would boost jobs and business growth in Michigan and specifically in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties.

Lack of adequate wastewater capacity in this region is a barrier to economic growth. Currently, the City of Coopersville and the Village of Ravenna provide wastewater services to several local businesses who are looking to grow in West Michigan. However, they are not likely to make these investments in the region without the infrastructure or resources available to accommodate their existing and future wastewater needs. This must be addressed for the region to move forward.

Because the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center has excess capacity to serve these neighboring employers and the surrounding communities, it only makes sense to invest in infrastructure to connect these two areas.

We strongly encourage you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund to the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line. Doing so will allow a number of agri-business and food processing operations to expand their operations in the region, fueling growth at local dairies, cold storage facilities and otherwise.

Using the SOAR fund for this purpose matches the legislative intent of the program: to secure transformational business retention and attraction projects and provide a historic opportunity for growth across Michigan. We encourage your support for this \$60 million investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Block".

Wendy Block
Vice President of Business Advocacy & Member Engagement



*Economic Development
Leaders for Michigan*

September 22, 2022

Rob Cleveland
President & CEO
Cornerstone Alliance

JoAnn Crary
President
Saginaw Future Inc.

Marty Fittante
CEO
Invest UP

Kevin Johnson
President & CEO
Detroit Economic Growth
Corporation

Maureen Krauss
President & CEO
Detroit Regional Partnership

Paul Krutko
President & CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK

James McBryde
President & CEO
Middle Michigan Development
Corporation

Jennifer Owens
President
Lakeshore Advantage

Jonas Peterson
CEO
Southwest Michigan First

Tyler Rossmassler
Executive Director
Flint & Genesee Economic
Alliance

Randy Thelen
President & CEO
The Right Place, Inc.

Bob Trezise
President & CEO
LEAP

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

On behalf of the members of Economic Development Leaders for Michigan, thank you for your consideration of transformational projects through the SOAR Fund process. We support your efforts to retain incumbent Michigan businesses and shore up our statewide economy for decades to come through a SOAR Fund allocation to Muskegon County to build a regional force main for wastewater.

Food processors in West Michigan face a major obstacle to growth: insufficient capacity for wastewater treatment. In Ottawa County, the facility operated by the City of Coopersville is currently processing wastewater at levels above its permitted use. Area food processors wish to grow their operations at their Michigan sites, generating investment and growing jobs for Michiganders, but are limited by the amount of flow the Coopersville plant can accept. In Muskegon County, food processing businesses also wish to grow, but are not located near adequate infrastructure to carry their wastewater to the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center (MCRRC).

With a statewide annual economic impact of \$104.7 billion, the food and agriculture industry is key to a healthy and diverse Michigan economy. When these businesses grow, the entire agricultural sector benefits – Michigan farmers producing crops and raw dairy can expand their own operations when food processors choose Michigan to invest in facilities to meet growing demand. With SOAR funding, Muskegon County can develop and build a wastewater mainline which will address the needs of the region and ensure businesses can grow. Millions of dollars in expansions are planned if – and only if – the wastewater issue is addressed for the area. By creating a regional solution, the proposed wastewater line would enable employers to flourish.

We urge the Michigan Strategic Fund to approve a SOAR Fund transfer to invest in this infrastructure for Michigan's food processing and agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

Rob Cleveland
President & CEO, Cornerstone Alliance

JoAnn Crary
President, Saginaw Future, Inc



Economic Development
Leaders for Michigan

Rob Cleveland
President & CEO
Cornerstone Alliance

JoAnn Crary
President
Saginaw Future Inc.

Marty Fittante
CEO
Invest UP

Kevin Johnson
President & CEO
Detroit Economic Growth
Corporation

Maureen Krauss
President & CEO
Detroit Regional Partnership

Paul Krutko
President & CEO
Ann Arbor SPARK

James McBryde
President & CEO
Middle Michigan Development
Corporation

Jennifer Owens
President
Lakeshore Advantage

Jonas Peterson
CEO
Southwest Michigan First

Tyler Rossmassler
Executive Director
Flint & Genesee Economic
Alliance

Randy Thelen
President & CEO
The Right Place, Inc.

Bob Trezise
President & CEO
LEAP

Marty Fittante
CEO, Invest UP

Kevin Johnson
President & CEO, Detroit Economic Growth
Corp

Maureen Donohue Krauss
President & CEO, Detroit Regional Partnership

James McBryde
President & CEO, Middle Michigan
Development Corp

Paul Krutko
President & CEO, Ann Arbor Spark

Jennifer Owens
President, Lakeshore Advantage

Jonas Peterson
CEO, Southwest Michigan First

Tyler Rossmassler
Executive Director, Flint & Genesee Economic
Alliance

Randy Thelen
President & CEO, The Right Place

Bob Trezise
President & CEO, LEAP



LAKESHORE ADVANTAGE

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair

Neil Boehm
Gentex

Vice Chair

Jeff Stutz
MillerKnoll

Treasurer

Jennifer Remondino
Warner Norcross + Judd

Secretary

Mark Schmidt
BizStream

Scott Brooks

Brooks Capital Management

Holly Johnson

Frey Foundation

Dave Koster

Holland Board of
Public Works

Scott Lubbers

Fifth Third Bank

Jodi Owczarski

West Coast Chamber
of Commerce

Dr. Bill Pink

Ferris State University

Steve Ramus

Perrigo

Rob Sarro

Allegan County

John Shay

Ottawa County

Dave Tebo

Ottawa Area ISD

Craig Ulrich

JR Automation

Jim Vander Kolk

Royal Technologies

Kyle Verplank

Shape Corp.

Jeweral Washington

J-Max Transportation

September 11th, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the \$60 million investment in Muskegon County's Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure. As the local economic development nonprofit serving Ottawa and Allegan counties, we know that the successful implementation of innovative and efficient wastewater infrastructure is essential in maintaining the lucrative business environment along the lakeshore.

Although the City of Coopersville is currently providing wastewater services to many local businesses, they do not have the infrastructure or resources available to accommodate growing wastewater needs. This investment is a significant collaboration effort, connecting the overcapacity Coopersville wastewater system in Ottawa County to the under-capacity wastewater system in Muskegon County. Local businesses in these counties, several of whom are poised for significant growth and expansion in the coming years, are hesitant to invest in the State of Michigan without sufficient wastewater infrastructure to meet their current and future needs. The realization of the wastewater pipeline not only equips them for significant future investment, but it also secures their presence here in West Michigan for years to come.

This initiative falls neatly within the scope of the intent of the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) fund — enabling immediate business growth to retain our current employers and laying a foundation for future housing and industry growth. Lakeshore Advantage strongly encourages you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer from the SOAR Fund to the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line. In doing so, businesses will be able to expand their operations in West Michigan, keeping our state's critical agricultural and food processing sectors growing for years to come.

Thank you for your dedication to Michigan's businesses, and for considering this historic opportunity for growth and development.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Owens

201 W. Washington Ave. Loft 410
Zeeland, Michigan 49464

P 616.772.5226
lakeshoreadvantage.com

GRAND RAPIDS CHAMBER

Grand Rapids Chamber
250 Monroe Ave NW
Suite 250
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

September 9, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

The Grand Rapids Chamber urges you to support the \$60 million investment in the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure granted to Muskegon County, as appears on your September 27 board meeting agenda. This new infrastructure would be an asset to the region – including Muskegon and Ottawa Counties – which would allow for increased investment and business growth.

As it stands, a lack of adequate wastewater capacity in this region is a barrier to economic growth. Currently, the City of Coopersville in Ottawa County provides wastewater services to several local businesses poised for growth. Coopersville simply does not have the infrastructure or resources available to accommodate future increases in wastewater needs. The Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center, meanwhile, has excess capacity to serve neighboring employers and the surrounding communities. However, there is no current infrastructure to connect the two areas.

We strongly encourage you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer to fund the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line project through SOAR. We have the strongest possible expectation that regional food processor operations will expand their operations, fueling further growth at local dairies, cold storage facilities, and more. The SOAR fund was created to support strategic site development, and this project is just that: transformational infrastructure which benefits an entire region, supports business growth, and even allows for housing development in previously inaccessible areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this investment to keep Michigan's agricultural and food processing sectors growing, and our regional economy flourishing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "B".

Rick Baker
President & CEO
Grand Rapids Chamber



September 16th, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the \$60 million investment in Muskegon County's Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure. As the local economic development nonprofit serving Muskegon County, we know that the successful implementation of innovative, sustainable, and efficient wastewater infrastructure is essential in maintaining the agri-business environment along the lakeshore.

Lack of wastewater capacity in this region is a barrier to economic growth. Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center has excess capacity to serve neighboring employers and surrounding communities. However, there is no current infrastructure to connect the two areas.

Although the City of Coopersville is currently providing wastewater services to many local businesses, they do not have the infrastructure or resources available to accommodate growing wastewater needs. This investment is a significant collaboration between Muskegon and Ottawa County, connecting the over-capacity Coopersville wastewater system in Ottawa County to the under-capacity wastewater system in Muskegon County.

Local businesses in these counties, several of whom are poised for significant growth and expansion in the coming years, are hesitant to invest in the State of Michigan without sufficient wastewater infrastructure to meet their current and future needs. The construction of the wastewater pipeline not only equips them for significant future investment, but it also secures their presence here in West Michigan for years to come. These companies not only affect our counties but also the entire State because of the 884 suppliers affected.

This initiative falls neatly within the scope of the intent of the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) fund — enabling immediate business growth to retain our current employers and laying a foundation for future housing and industry growth on our shovel ready site. GMED strongly encourages you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer from the SOAR Fund to the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line. In doing so, businesses will be able to expand their operations in West Michigan, keeping our state's critical agricultural and food processing sectors growing for years to come.

Thank you for your dedication to Michigan's businesses, and for considering this historic, collaborative, and long-awaited opportunity for growth and development in West Michigan and across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Schneider'.

Marla Schneider
President/CEO
Greater Muskegon Economic Development



September 12, 2022

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

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce urges you to support the extension of the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line. This \$60 million infrastructure investment would allow for increased jobs and business growth in both Muskegon and Ottawa counties.

Lack of wastewater capacity in this region is a barrier to economic growth. Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center has excess capacity to serve neighboring employers and surrounding communities. However, there is no current infrastructure to connect the two areas.

We strongly encourage you to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) Fund to the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line. Doing so will allow a number of agri-business and food processing operations to expand their operations in the region, fueling growth at local dairies, cold storage facilities and more.

Using the SOAR fund for this purpose matches the legislative intent of the program: to secure transformation business retention and attraction projects and provide a historic opportunity for growth across Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration of this investment to keep Muskegon County's agricultural and food processing sectors growing, and our region economy flourishing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cindy Larsen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Cindy' being more prominent than the last name 'Larsen'.

Cindy Larsen
President
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce



CITY OF WHITEHALL

September 21, 2022

**Michigan Strategic Fund
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913**

Dear Chair Messer and Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board,

On behalf of the 18 governmental units of the Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management Committee, I would like to pass along our unanimous support for the Southeast Regional Force Main Project as voted on at a special meeting of the Committee held earlier this month. The Committee members recognize the significant financial and operational value of this Project to the Muskegon County Resource and Recovery Center along with the considerable economic impact to the region and for those private companies that have chosen to locate and expand in West Michigan.

The Committee respectfully requests your support of a legislative transfer of \$60 Million from the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve Fund to the Southeast Regional Force Main Project which is vital to the success of the Project, the economic growth of the State, and the financial viability of local and international businesses.

Sincerely,



**Scott K. Huebler
Management Committee Chair
Whitehall City Manager**



September 19, 2022

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

Attention Members of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board:

The White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity to support the \$60 million investment in the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater infrastructure granted to Muskegon County which appears on the September 27 board meeting agenda.

This regional project will also have a tangible statewide impact for the many individual family farms that make up a large portion of the 884 suppliers tied to the five participating employers. It strengthens the entire value chain and ecosystem for Michigan farmers.

This infrastructure would be an asset to Muskegon and Ottawa Counties, allowing for increased investment and business growth. Currently there is a lack of adequate wastewater capacity in this region which is a barrier to economic growth. Coopersville simply does not have the infrastructure or the resources available to accommodate future increases in wastewater needs. Meanwhile, the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center, has excess capacity to serve neighboring employers and the surrounding communities. However, there is no current infrastructure to connect the two areas.

We encourage the Board to move forward and initiate a legislative transfer to fund the Southeast Regional Force Main wastewater line project through SOAR. The SOAR fund was created to support strategic site development, and this project is just that: transformational infrastructure which benefits an entire region, supports business growth, and would potentially allow housing development in previously inaccessible areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this investment to keep Michigan's agricultural growing, and our regional economy flourishing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy L. VanLoon".

Amy L. VanLoon, Executive Director
WHITE LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
124 West Hanson, Whitehall, MI 49461
231.893.4585



Detroit
Regional
Partnership

October 3, 2022

Quentin L. Messer Jr.
Chair
Michigan Strategic Fund

Dear Chair Messer,

Please accept this letter in support of proposed incentives from the Michigan Strategic Fund for Our Next Energy's (ONE) potential expansion in Van Buren Township. As you know, the project is expected to generate more than 2,100 new jobs and about \$1.6 billion in investment in the Detroit Region and would further cement our state and region as the global epicenter of mobility.

The Detroit Region Partnership views ONE's proposal as a transformational project that will strengthen the regional economy and bolster this state's global leadership in automotive and mobility industries amid the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). ONE offers the type of mobility solutions global manufacturers seek as they pursue increased battery range and performance needed to create widespread adoption of EVs. Its unique dual chemistry battery technology is the product of Michigan's premier talent and reflects the depth of the industry innovation occurring here, which is sought around the world.

As an organization tasked with attracting national and international companies to southeast Michigan, the Detroit Regional Partnership believes that ONE's expansion would quickly be recognized globally as an example of why other automotive and mobility companies of all sizes need to locate here. This project reaffirms our region and state are the premier North American location to lead EV innovation and will surely help us attract additional companies moving forward, providing tremendous value for the state's investment.

As such, I request the support of Michigan Strategic Fund Board for this project. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 248-821-0864.

Sincerely,

Maureen Donohue Krauss

Maureen Donohue Krauss
President and CEO
Detroit Regional Partnership



DETROIT REGION AEROTROPOLIS®

11895 S. WAYNE RD. SUITE 101A | ROMULUS, MI 48174 | 734.992.2286 | DETROITAERO.ORG

September 28, 2022

ATTN: MSF Board Chair, Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
300 N. Washington Sq.,
Lansing, MI 48913

RE: Project First

Dear Quentin L. Messer, Jr.

The Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corporation (Aerotropolis) is a two-county, four-community economic development partnership. Aerotropolis actively engages with the MEDC, Detroit Regional Partnership (DRP), Wayne County and Van Buren Twp. to drive economic development to support the growth of Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Willow Run.

Working closely with the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), our community leadership has come to realize that the internal combustion engine (ICE) required many more automotive parts than the electric motor. Recent estimates have shown that 5,000 to 7,000 fewer moving parts are required to build the electric motor and drive train.

As we look to transition from ICE to electrification, our community needs to identify new industries and new pathway jobs to sustain a vibrant and healthy local economy. Project First offers our community an opportunity to transition into the carbon-conscience electrified future. We admire the leadership of the MEDC and its relentless work ethic to identify new pathway jobs for our residents. Our partnership is one that is true, nimble and most importantly, on the leading edge of economic and community development.

Please let me know if you I can provide additional information. You can reach me directly at cgirdwood@detroitaero.org or (734) 992-2286.

Sincerely,

Christopher J Girdwood
CEO
Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corp.
11895 Wayne Road #101A
Romulus, MI 48174



Warren C. Evans
County Executive

Sept. 29, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Messer,

Wayne County Economic Development submits this letter in support of Project First. This project aligns with our goal of enhancing the economic viability of our Wayne County communities and our support for the attraction of the next generation of automotive suppliers.

This project will complement the already significant investment in cutting edge electric vehicle research, development and manufacturing that is taking place in Wayne County, the region, and the state of Michigan. This includes the recent announcements by Ford Motor Company of their Ion Park and redevelopment of the Michigan Central Train station and surrounding area as a center of research and development for electric vehicles.

Wayne County is committed to upgrading the road network which will support this new development in Van Buren Township. It is also committed to working with our excellent community colleges and Michigan Works offices to aid in the attraction and training of the workforce this company will require to be as successful as we anticipate they will become.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luz V. Meza".

Luz V. Meza
Director of Economic Development
Wayne County