

The Cheboygan Daily Tribune
308 N. Main Street
Cheboygan, Michigan 49721

April, 16, 2009

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

It's time to find a way to fund the efforts of the Topinabee Development Association. This group has put together a plan to create a streetscape and building improvement program that will have significant economic benefits to our tourism-dependant region.

Topinabee is located in a strategic position along M-27 and can function as a welcoming portal to visitors of Cheboygan County. Our county faces significant challenges with unemployment currently over 20 percent. We must leverage our strengths as a community and the growth of tourism is our best bet in the foreseeable future. Attractive streetscapes and storefronts are very important in welcoming visitors to the area.

The Topinabee group has engaged many facets of our community. They pitch a big tent – one that a variety of local organizations and individuals have bought into. Their base of support is broad, but they need your help to find the dollars necessary to make their plans a reality.

Funding exists through H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law on February 17. I urge you to allocate a portion of these funds or other discretionary dollars to the Topinabee Development Group effort.

Please reach out to area representatives familiar to this project for more information. Everyone that has looked at the plan is supportive. You can also contact me anytime at 231-627-7144 for a newspaper publisher's perspective on this regional economic development initiative.

Sincerely,

Gary Lamberg, Publisher
The Cheboygan Daily Tribune
231-627-7144