



# CHEBOYGAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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March 16, 2009

Governor Jennifer Granholm  
PO Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Granholm,

I am writing to express my strong support for the efforts of the Topinabee Development Association (TDA). The TDA shows every sign of being a very successful community economic development effort. The community of Topinabee, Mullett Township, and Cheboygan County will benefit greatly from their work.

From the early days of the organization's efforts they have worked to engage all levels of stakeholders in their community. They started with a grass roots effort to see if people wanted change. They found that there was some shared vision and the worked to gain commitments of time and money from the local stakeholders. These stakeholders funded a thorough study which resulted in an excellent plan, called the Topinabee Streetscape Improvement Plan, with good stakeholder buy-in. Based on their design needs, the county is undertaking a zoning analysis of their downtown area to make sure that the laws are in place to help them reach their goals.

The resulting plan has extensive support and enthusiasm. It is truly a shared vision that the people of their community will work hard to effectuate. This is the strongest, most sustainable community economic development effort that I have witnessed. They have already inspired neighboring communities to work together and be pro-active about their future. This plan, when fully implemented, would not only improve Topinabee but it would also empower the communities around the region serving as an example.

Please strongly consider supporting their efforts. It will be worth the investment.

Sincerely,

Steve Schnell, AICP  
Community Development Director