



March 24, 2009

Governor Jennifer Granholm
Attn: Selam Ghirmai
111 South Capital Ave.
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

The Topinabee Development Association (TDA) has recently submitted a request for an appropriation of Federal Funds to accomplish a Streetscape Enhancement Plan for the community. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Michigan Environmental Council supports and endorses the efforts being made by the TDA and encourages you to allocate the monies necessary to enable the community to accomplish its plan.

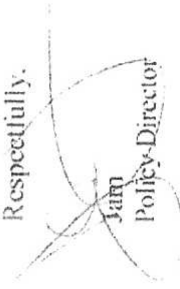
Topinabee is located on the western shore of beautiful Mullett Lake, in Mullett Township, Cheboygan County. Mullett Lake is part of the Inland Lake Water system and an important link in the 42 mile long Inland Waterway. The Streetscape Plan provides some tangible and meaningful water resource protection opportunities.

Accomplishing the Plan will significantly enhance water quality in the Mullett Lake Watershed. The installation of proposed curbs, gutters, bio-swales and filtration vortexes and the use of modern storm water management systems will enable MDOT to greatly improve the quality of water run-off which is flowing directly from the highway into Mullett Lake and ultimately Lake Huron and beyond. A comprehensive rebuilding of the .9 mile stretch of road running parallel to the Lake is needed to mitigate the adverse effects of pollution from vehicles, businesses, road salt and erosion stemming from an antiquated drainage system.

The future of our waters ultimately depends on what we do today to protect them. Ongoing pressures from unplanned development, wetland filling, soil erosion, storm water runoff, invasive species, and potential water diversions all threaten the health of Northern Michigan. A successful Streetscape Plan in this community will help ensure that Mullett Lake has some of the protection it needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

Respectfully,



Jane
Policy-Director