



Northern Lakes
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE



A regional public/private economic development organization serving Antrim, Charlevoix, and Cheboygan Counties, Michigan, USA

Mr. John Calabrese
Emmet County Administrator
200 Division St.
Petoskey, MI 49770

May 24, 2019

Dear John,

This letter is written to communicate that Emmet County's approval of one and not both provisions of the Ad-Hoc committee's tentative agreement does not reflect the complete tentative agreement reached between the representatives of all four counties and the NLEA and recommended by the Ad-Hoc committee.

The Ad Hoc committee's recommendation and the action approved by the NLEA Board included components to specifically sustain supports and services for member county's stakeholders beyond one year, provides stability from year to year, reflects a multiple year commitment from counties, and is supportable by the counties choosing to continue to participate in the NLEA effort.

The Action taken by the Emmet County BOC on May 23, 2019 reflects none of these stipulated recommendations and appears to reject the recommendation from the ad hoc committee

The understanding of the Ad-Hoc committee was that these two provisions were intertwined and dependent on each other.

The NLEA Board's single action approved both provisions as a package and not independent of one another. It is clearly referenced in the Recital section of the "Bridge Agreement" that this short term agreement is intended as a bridge between the short term agreement and the longer term agreement beginning January 1, 2020.

The NLEA Board's approval of the Ad-Hoc committee recommendation was for the complete two provision counter proposal from Emmet County. The Ad-Hoc recommendation also included an early termination clause allowing either party to end the long-term agreement with notice.

The NLEA Board's action does not authorize entering the bridge agreement independent from or absent of the 4-year agreement. Therefore, approval of only the short-term provision without approval of the longer term provision renders the short-term bridge agreement null as it would serve as a bridge to nothing.

The discussions during the Ad Hoc committee were positive and it was encouraging to see the spirit of cooperation as the other three counties and NLEA were not only sympathetic to Emmet stated budget challenges, but were also willing to help Emmet County through this difficult time.

Should Emmet County complete the approval for the whole recommendation of the Ad-Hoc committee, which was, in fact, Emmet County's proposal during the discussions, this situation can finally be resolved.

Sincerely,

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