



August 28, 2019

State Representative Jack O'Malley
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman O'Malley and members of the House Transportation Committee:

The Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association (MRLA) represents over 5,000 members who are in the hospitality industry. Part of having a successful hospitality industry, in the State of Michigan, is making sure there is a strong tourism presence. Currently, the tourism industry contributes \$2.7 billion in state and local taxes, while pumping in over \$24 billion into Michigan's economy.

One of the reasons why Michigan's tourism industry is so powerful is because we are blessed to have an abundant amount of lakes, trails, and parks. These don't just help to attract out-of-state visitors, but these natural treasures help push in-state tourism.

That is why the MRLA supports the actions of Representative Gary Howell and his colleague, Representative Rebekah Warren in introducing the package of bills (**HB 4486, 4775, and 4776**) that will enhance the value of recreation opportunities for all Michiganders.

The MRLA also supports the proposed increase of revenue that would go to the local recreation grants program that helps to fund local trails and parks. By having these increased funds available the State of Michigan's natural treasures will be able to live on for generations.

Sincerely,
Justin Winslow
President/CEO, Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association