

April 21, 2025

Senator Anthony
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

Re :Michigan Talent Partnership

Senator Anthony,

We are writing to express our support for the Michigan Talent Partnership. As Mayors and business chamber leaders, our chief responsibility is to ensure we are building growing and thriving cities for all our residents and businesses. The opportunity to create comprehensive plans for a talent magnet neighborhood in our city that is supported by the Michigan Talent Partnership (MTP) grant and funding across state government is unique to Michigan and meaningful to our cities' prosperity.

Supporting a comprehensive public space investment plan to achieve the MTP goals of concentrating young talent and creating opportunities for locally owned businesses is drawing us together across business chambers, private enterprise, and civic leadership. We appreciate the opportunity to identify a neighborhood to meet the program's goals and to identify funding needed from other state departments/agencies. We recognize that it is critical in your role as Senate Appropriations Chair to see the total cost of a comprehensive plan for each city as you work towards funding for the FY26 budget.

We are united around Michigan's need to address the economic development imperative of increasing Michigan's population of young talent by creating transit-rich, high-density, high-amenity, walkable neighborhoods. Along with creating opportunities for locally owned businesses , we support the legislative language outlining this challenge.

Thank you for your leadership on moving our state forward into the 21st century knowledge economy with its imperative that we increase our concentration of young talent. As we have experienced this decade, employers follow that young talent, and young talent wants great cities to live in. Your strength on this issue is unique in the nation.

Sincerely,

Mayor David LaGrand
Grand Rapids

Mayor Chris Taylor
Ann Arbor

Steve Japinga, SVP
Lansing Chamber

Andy Johnston, SVP
Grand Rapids Chamber

Andy LaBarre, EVP
Ypsi Ann Arbor Chamber

Sandy Baruah, CEO
Detroit Regional Chamber