

*Paw Paw Lake Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 206
Watervliet, Michigan 49098-0206*

**Centers for Regional Excellence
Ms. Andrea Brown
C/O Michigan Association of Planning
219 S. Main Street, Ste. 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Dear Ms. Brown,

Roger Prince, Mayor of Watervliet, MI and Dan Hutchins, Supervisor of Watervliet Charter Township have asked the organization I represent (Paw Paw Lake Association, Inc.) to offer a letter of support for a pathway along the Paw Paw River coursing through the two communities and to help procure a grant to make it possible.

The proposed 6,000 foot non motorized pathway will offer residents a multitude of opportunities. It will offer exercise, a communion with nature and a buffer area adjacent to one of the cleanest streams in Michigan which will, in turn, help to keep our section of the river clean and free flowing.

As our communities grow, I can't think of a better use of river frontage than to offer it to the community as a park and pathway. It is so important to preserve our lakes our rivers and their habitats and to promote intelligent developmental planning.

This pathway corridor will pass through River Oaks in the City of Watervliet, a "Green Built" community, nestled along the river incorporating innovative features such as rain gardens on every home site and land already set aside for the purpose of the proposed path. The City of Watervliet is an area leader in environmental development, its Veterans Park along the river also incorporates a river buffer, rain gardens and a pervious parking surface to help preserve and protect the Paw Paw River. The proposed path will pass through this park.

The Paw Paw Lake Association heartily endorses our community's effort to obtain a MDOT Grant to help build this pathway, preserving the Paw Paw River and in turn offering our citizens and visitors alike a beautiful and peaceful way to enjoy its natural beauty.

Sincerely,

**Robert A. Becker
President
Paw Paw Lake Association, Inc.**

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