



November 4, 2013

The Honorable Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
Supervisor
Pittsfield Charter Township
6201 West Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Re: Pittsfield – State Street Corridor Improvement Authority

Dear Ms. Grewal:

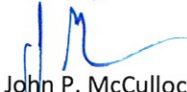
I am responding to your letter from October 23, 2013 concerning the status of the State Street Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) and your invitation to enter into a tax-sharing agreement between the CIA, Charter Township of Pittsfield and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (Metroparks). While I can appreciate the economic development reasons for the State Street – CIA project, at this time, the Metroparks is declining to participate in this endeavor. Please note that this decision is not without careful consideration.

As you know, the Metroparks operates one of largest and most outstanding parks systems in the nation. Located within the five-county region that includes your community, the regional Metropark system not only serves to provide parks with different types of recreational opportunities, but also is vital to the preservation and protection of the environment. The Metroparks relies on a regional millage to support its operations. However, the economy and the decline in property values, along with compliance with Headlee, have directly impacted the Metroparks' ability in carrying out its mission.

Over the last five years, the Metroparks has observed a decline in tax revenue of over \$8 Million dollars annually. In addition, the impact of more than 100 different tax increment authorities (i.e. downtown development authorities, Brownfield authorities, and/or corridor improvement authorities) has further impacted our operations. You may be surprise to know, that the various tax increment authorities (cumulatively) siphon tax revenue (otherwise dedicated to the Metroparks system) of over \$1 Million annually. Like other governmental bodies that rely on ad valorem taxation, the Metroparks has had to make considerable adjustments and sacrifice to our operational and capital improvement plans and budgets in order to carry out our core mission. Consequently, the Metroparks, which previously remained neutral with respect to various tax increment authorities throughout the region, has had to reevaluate the merits of its participation. For these reasons, we respectfully decline in entering into this tax sharing agreement.

Hopefully, you understand our position. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John P. McCulloch
Director
Huron-Clinton Metroparks