

June 15, 2020

John Speeter, Chairman
South County Sewer and Water Authority
Pavilion Township Hall
7510 Q Avenue East
Scotts, MI 49088

Dear Mr. Speeter,

On behalf of Southwest Michigan First, I would like to express our support of the South County Sewer and Water Authority's request for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant for the establishment of a wastewater collection and treatment system that will service the communities of Pavilion Township, Brady Township, Schoolcraft Township, the Village of Schoolcraft, US 131 North, the Village of Schoolcraft, Sugarloaf Lake and Barton Lake.

Southwest Michigan First is an economic development organization that acts as a catalyst for economic growth across all industries throughout the Southwest Michigan region. Committed to job creation, government and education alignment, acceleration of core communities, and talent development, Southwest Michigan First is also nationally recognized for its site selection capabilities, including location benchmarking, due diligence, site searches, project coordination and incentives negotiation and compliance.

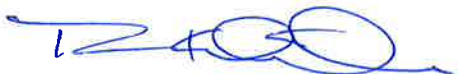
Currently, Southwest Michigan has a significant shortage of industrial land suitable for development, and very few existing buildings are available for lease or purchase, inhibiting opportunities for capital investment, economic growth and job creation throughout the region.

The US 131 corridor, as delineated in the scope of the South County Sewer and Water Authority's project prospectus, is prime for development but only if appropriate infrastructure exists. Without water and sewer, the cost of development for prospective industrial and commercial investors proves prohibitive, impacting opportunities for economic development in the Southwest Michigan region.

An EDA grant supporting this project will significantly advance our efforts to market Southwest Michigan as a development-ready region, providing the aforementioned communities with significant opportunity to grow tax revenue by increasing land available for development, thereby providing community members not only a safer and environmentally friendly wastewater system but increased opportunity for economic development and, ultimately, jobs.

We respectfully request your favorable response to South County Sewer and Water Authority's application for EDA funding, and thank you for your consideration of this compelling project.

Sincerely,



Ron Kitchens
senior partner and chief executive officer
Southwest Michigan First