

September 25, 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:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the South Haven/Van Buren County Convention & Visitors Bureau, I am writing to express our strong support of House bills 4486, 4775 and 4776. This package of bills alters Michigan's recreational passport program from an opt-in to an opt-out approach for Michigan residents.

As one of the State of Michigan's first designated Pure Michigan Trail Towns, we believe and are strongly committed to the development and preservation of our trails. The positive impact and importance of our trails to our residents and guests continues to grow each year. While the current opt-in recreational passport program has been successful, we believe changing this to an opt-out program will be extremely beneficial for our State residents and visitors in creating additional funding for improved outdoor recreation options and facilities.

We are very proud our community has contributed to Michigan's legacy as the Trails State and believe this change will help foster and grow outdoor experiences from years to come. We urge your consideration and passage of this legislation.

Sincerely

Scott Reinert

Executive Director

South Haven/Van Buren County Convention & Visitors Bureau