



VILLAGE OF JONESVILLE

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January 12, 2011

House Transportation Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P. O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear House Transportation Committee Members:

On behalf of the Jonesville Community, its residents, its elected and appointed officials, and its business community, I wish to express our support for the House Bill 4004 which would exclude the portion of abandoned railroad right of way in the Village of Jonesville from the PA 295 divestiture law, allowing outright purchase of the property to develop it into a public "rail trail" along the Saint Joseph River.

The Jonesville Recreation Plan, Master Plan, and Downtown Development Authority Development Plan all include testimonial reference to the establishment of a linear trail system. This initiative recognizes that Michigan's 21st Century Communities must include the physical design and walkability asset of "place-making" in improving quality of life. Furthermore, this initiative addresses another critical place-making asset as identified by the Michigan Municipal League; transit via offering an alternative mode of transportation.

By excluding the abandoned railroad right of way you can greatly assist in eliminating blight and providing public recreational and economic opportunities that otherwise would not exist. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. If I can provide any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam R. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Adam R. Smith, Village Manager