

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Graves, Chair  
House Commerce and Trade Committee  
S-985 Anderson House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: House Bill 4226

Dear Representative Graves:

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Grand Rapids SmartZone Board and in my role as Assistant Dean for External Relations at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids. I am writing in support of HB 4226, authored by Representative Daniela Garcia. It is my understanding that House Bill 4226 will be taken up at the House Commerce Committee on Tuesday, May 5.

I would respectfully request that you and your Committee members favorably support House Bill 4226. The creation of the Holland Satellite SmartZone and the continuation of the Grand Rapids SmartZone, not only demonstrates our continued support to entrepreneurs, but it will have a direct and tangible impact on job creation and economic development in our region by providing a stronger regional approach to economic development.



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Entrepreneurship and innovation linked to university research, needs the support of this vital economic development tool and it will help Michigan continue its tradition of entrepreneurship excellence and keep west Michigan a great place to be an entrepreneur.

Thank you for the important role you play as the Chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Trade.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry Kooiman".

Jerry Kooiman  
Assistant Dean for External Relations

cc: Representative Daniela Garcia