



**WEST MICHIGAN  
TRAILS & GREENWAYS**

*A world-class trail  
experience connecting  
West Michigan*

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Chris Zull

West Michigan Trails &  
Greenways Coalition

1345 Monroe Ave NW  
Suite 220  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Website: [www.wmtrails.org](http://www.wmtrails.org)  
Email: [director@wmtrails.org](mailto:director@wmtrails.org)

September 4, 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:

West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC) works to enhance the quality of life in our region by advancing our regional trails movement toward a world-class trail experience connecting West Michigan. These non-motorized multi-use trails provide important economic, health, transportation, and recreation benefits to the communities in West Michigan and across our state.

WMTGC supports the recommendation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to expand the Recreation Passport program to an "opt-out" rather than the current "opt-in" approach. After 10 years of the public being familiar with the incredible value of the Recreation Passport it is time to return to the original model envisioned by the legislature and that the citizens of this state are fully aware of the choice that can be made to support the program.

WMTGC appreciates the actions of Representative Gary Howell and his colleague, Representative Rebekah Warren in introducing this important package of bills (HB 4486, 4775 and 4776) that will enhance the value of recreation opportunities for all Michiganders.

Hopefully this legislation will move quickly and allow Michigan to finally embrace the original version of the Recreation Passport program that will provide significant increases in funding for both our state and local parks and trails.

WMTGC also supports the proposed increase from 10% to 15% in the amount of the Recreation Passport revenue going to the local recreation grants program that helps to fund local trails and parks, which has been clearly proven in recent state and local surveys to be the number one recreational need in the state.

Sincerely,

John Morrison  
Executive Director, West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition