



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Parker
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Fairbairn
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Cloverland Electric Cooperative
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
725 E. Portage Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
State Representative Parker Fairbairn, House District 107
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
This request is made to provide Patricial funding for Cloverland Electric Cooperatives plan to establish a cutting-edge technology and training facility in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. This facility will provide hands-on training for careers in electrical systems, clean energy technology, broadband infrastructure, and advanced industrial maintenance—filling critical workforce gaps in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula.

The project involves acquiring a 13.6-acre site, including a 20,000-square-foot

commercial/industrial building, and constructing additional facilities to support workforce development programs in:

- Electrical lineman, substation tech, and electrician training
- Renewable energy systems installation & maintenance (solar, hydroelectric, wind, battery, landfill gas, Combined Heat and Power (CHP))
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging, infrastructure repair, and maintenance
- Broadband installation & maintenance
- Data center server repair and data center technology integration
- CDL Training

By offering hands-on education in these high-demand fields, the Cloverland Technology & Training Facility will play a pivotal role in closing the skills gap and ensuring workforce readiness for critical industries in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and throughout the state. The facility will provide specialized training programs tailored to meet the needs of the rapidly evolving energy, technology, and skilled trades sectors, equipping participants with industry-recognized certifications and practical experience that will make them competitive in today's job market.

Through state-of-the-art training labs, real-world simulations, and apprenticeship programs, students will gain the expertise needed to install, maintain, and repair renewable energy systems, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, smart grid technology, and broadband infrastructure—all of which are essential for modernizing the region's power grid and expanding access to high-speed internet in rural communities. In addition to fostering a highly skilled, homegrown workforce, the facility will directly support economic development by attracting new businesses, reducing reliance on imported labor, and enhancing regional infrastructure resilience. By integrating clean energy education, cybersecurity measures, and smart grid innovations, the facility will position Michigan's Upper Peninsula as a leader in sustainable energy solutions and advanced technology industries.

This initiative will not only provide career opportunities for local residents—including young professionals, displaced workers, and members of tribal communities, but also strengthen the regional economy by ensuring businesses and municipalities have access to a stable, well-trained workforce capable of supporting 21st-century infrastructure demands.

The Upper Peninsula faces significant workforce shortages due to its rural nature and limited access to advanced technical training. Cloverland stands ready to provide a facility to support its needs. However, without additional support, the opportunities that this facility can bring would be significantly reduced as the financial burden would be

placed on Cloverland's rate payers. With additional support, the facility will:

- Develop a skilled workforce for high-demand industries, including energy, technology, and telecommunications
- Expand access to living-wage careers for local residents, especially in rural and tribal communities
- Support Michigan's clean energy transition by training workers in solar, hydro, and smart-grid technologies
- Enhance broadband and power infrastructure, addressing critical infrastructure needs in underserved areas

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

3000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

William LaLonde – Chair District A – St. Ignace, Gerald Nettleton District A – DeTour Village, Jason St. Onge District A – Mackinac Island, Carmine Bonacci Jr. – Secretary / Treasurer, District B – Sault Ste. Marie, Patrick Egan District B – Brimley, John Sawruk –

Vice Chair District B – Sault Ste. Marie, Kevin Vanatta District C – Newberry, Virgil Monroe District C – Manistique, Ronald Provo District C – Manistique

17. “I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item.”

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

The project will begin, and the funds will be expended, in Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026), subject to approval of this request.

19. “I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate.”

Yes



Min Waban Dan

**Administrative
Office**

523 Ashmun Street

Sault Ste. Marie

Michigan

49783

Phone
906.635.6050

Fax
906-632-6696

**Government
Services**

**Membership
Services**

**Economic
Development
Commission**

November 25, 2024

To whom it may concern.

Today, the Sault Tribe is a community of 50,000 members. While headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, the Tribe's economic impact spans hundreds of miles. The Tribe's landholdings, businesses, housing, and service centers are spread across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Its seven-county service area includes the easternmost counties of Michigan's Upper Peninsula—an area roughly east of Marquette to Escanaba.

When the Tribe adopted its Constitution, it had fewer than 10 employees, almost no external funding, and no independent revenue sources. Over time, it established member service programs—such as health, housing, and education—funded by federal and state governments. However, the needs of Tribe members quickly exceeded these limited funding sources. In response, tribal leaders developed a business-based economy designed to generate revenue and create jobs for its members. Over the past 25 years, the Tribe has built a robust tribal economy, providing employment opportunities, enhancing the welfare of its people, and positively contributing to surrounding communities.

In alignment with this mission, our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC), is undertaking an initiative to support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of establishing an indoor technology and training center presents a transformative opportunity to address workforce challenges and foster regional growth. This center will serve as a catalyst for developing the next-generation workforce in key sectors such as energy, broadband, and emerging technologies like data centers and artificial intelligence.

One of the Upper Peninsula's largest challenges is attracting and retaining the talent necessary to drive growth and prosperity. A facility that collaborates with community partners—including K-12 schools, higher education institutions, industry leaders, and government agencies—offers a unique opportunity to showcase career pathways and promote job diversification. This initiative has the potential to inspire the next generation to pursue careers in high-demand fields that are critical to the region's future.

The Sault Tribe fully supports this vision and looks forward to its realization. This initiative addresses a critical regional need and promises long-term benefits by developing the workforce so essential for economic stability and growth—both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Austin Lowes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Austin Lowes
Tribal Chairman
alowes@saulttribe.net



November 26, 2024

Susan Brehm
Regional Director
EDA Chicago Regional Office

Re: Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Technology & Training Facility

Dear Ms. Brehm:

Lake Superior State University (LSSU) is a publicly funded, yet personal, small-town University that provides a superior blend of liberal and technical studies in the natural setting on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The 115-acre campus is situated on the site of the former U.S. Army's Fort Brady with fourteen of LSSU's buildings listed on various historic registers, creating a unique campus environment. The campus overlooks Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the St. Mary's River, and the Soo Locks, the busiest locks in the world. At LSSU, we equip our graduates with the knowledge, practical skills, and inner strength to craft a life of meaningful employment, personal fulfillment, and generosity of self within an inclusive atmosphere, all while enhancing the quality of life of the Great Lakes region and the world.

With that mission in mind, our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

LSSU supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

David Travis, Ph.D.
President

Office of the President
650 W. Easterday Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Telephone: 906-635-2202 • Fax: 906-635-6671
www.lssu.edu



426 North 9th Street - Gladstone, MI 49837 - Ph: 906-428-4141/800-562-0950 Fax: 906-428-3840

January 7, 2025

Susan Brehm
Regional Director
EDA Chicago Regional Office

Re: Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Technology & Training Facility

Dear Ms. Brehm;

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association was founded in 1937. Since then, we've grown to serve about 10,000 members in six counties in the central Upper Peninsula. We're one of about 900 non-profit electric co-ops in the U.S. and a valuable asset to the people and communities we serve. Alger Delta's mission is, "working together we provide safe, reliable, efficient energy".

With that mission in mind, our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

Alger Delta supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

Mike Furmanski
General Manager



November 25, 2024

Susan Brehm
Regional Director – Chicago Regional Office
U.S. Economic Development Administration
230 South Dearborn Street; Suite 3280
Chicago, IL 60604-1512

RE: Support for CEC technology and training center

Dear Ms. Brehm,

ATC is a regulated utility that moves energy along the electric power grid in parts of Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. We deliver energy from where it is generated to where it is used. Our company plans, maintains and protects the regional transmission system, while providing power to local electric distribution companies like Cloverland Electric Cooperative. In addition to being an ATC customer, CEC is also one of many utilities, municipal electric companies and electric cooperatives who have an ownership stake in ATC.

At ATC, we're focused on delivering sustained value to our customers and the communities we serve. We measure our success not by our own achievements, but by the positive impact we make as a critical infrastructure partner. By expanding opportunities for growth and development, we aim to deliver sustained value to others and contribute to the long-term success of the regions we serve.

We aim to maximize value for our customers and stakeholders by forging partnerships that produce mutually beneficial outcomes and support the communities we serve. With that mission in mind, our community partner, CEC is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region.

CEC's vision of building a technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy and broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence.

One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K-12, higher education, industry partners and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin highlighting careers to encourage the next generation to seek employment in these highly desired fields.

ATC supports CEC's vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region. We believe this project will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

Trevor Stiles
Director of Customer & Corporate Affairs



HIAWATHA COMMUNICATIONS INCORPORATED

108 West Superior Street • Munising, MI 49862-1192
(906) 387-9911 • FAX (906) 387-9920

November 20, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Letter of Support for Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Proposed Technology and Training Center

Hiawatha Communications Incorporated (HCI) is a holding company for several subsidiary operating companies. Our companies, namely; Hiawatha Telephone Company, Ontonagon County Telephone Company, Midway Telephone Company, Jamadots, and Great Lakes Interlink, along with HCI, provide broadband internet, telecommunications, transport, and entertainment services throughout the rural Upper Peninsula of Michigan (UP). Our end-users include residential and multi-dwelling residential as well as small, medium, and large businesses. We also serve many governmental and/or public entities across our footprint. HCI is UP owned and operated, employing over 50 team members. The services we provide help improve the quality of life in the UP, and we consider them a significant aid to the economies of the communities we serve.

Our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC), is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

HCI supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

James P. Brogan III
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hiawatha Communications Incorporated
Email: jbrogan@jamadots.net
Phone: (906) 387-0052



Power Systems Division
25000 Novi Road
Novi, Michigan 48375

December 5, 2024
Page 1 of 1

To whom it may concern.

Michigan CAT is the authorized Caterpillar heavy equipment, truck, power systems and engine dealer for Michigan's lower peninsula. Headquartered in Novi, the company has sales and service stores throughout the state in Novi, Brownstown Township, Grand Rapids, Kalkaska, Lansing, Macomb, Saginaw and Shelby Township. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan is no stranger to all our business lines. Caterpillar has been fortunate that all our lines are in high demand, and with that, finding talented staff is challenging.

Our partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC), is undertaking an initiative to support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of establishing an indoor technology and training center presents a transformative opportunity to address workforce challenges and foster regional growth. This center will serve as a catalyst for developing the next-generation workforce in key sectors such as energy, broadband, and emerging technologies like data centers and artificial intelligence.

One of the Upper Peninsula's largest challenges is attracting and retaining the talent necessary to drive growth and prosperity. A facility that collaborates with community partners—including K-12 schools, higher education institutions, industry leaders, and government agencies—offers a unique opportunity to showcase career pathways and promote job diversification. This initiative has the potential to inspire the next generation to pursue careers in high-demand fields that are critical to the region's future.

Michigan CAT fully supports this vision and looks forward to its realization. This initiative addresses a critical regional need and promises long-term benefits by developing the workforce so essential for economic stability and growth—both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. O'Connell".

Kevin O'Connell

Michigan CAT & MacAllister Machinery
Power Systems Div.

Advanced Energy Systems Manager

Mobile: (517)230-5444

Email: kevin.oconnell@michigancat.com



JOHN N. DAMOOSE

37TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MI 48909-7536

PHONE: (517) 373-2413

FAX: (517) 373-5144

senjdamosse@senate.michigan.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

December 16th, 2024

Susan Brehm
Regional Director
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Chicago Regional Office
230 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Director Brehm,

I am pleased to write today in support of Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC), and their vision for an indoor technology and training center in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. This initiative seeks to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, data centers, and Artificial Intelligence.

Job creation faces unique challenges in the Upper Peninsula, with hurdles such as a dispersed population, distance from metropolitan growth, and limited access to broadband making it difficult to build and retain talent. This project will create a center point in partnership with community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies to begin showcasing career opportunities and bring job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields. Cloverland Electric Cooperative has taken on this initiative with a strong personal record of success and many local partnerships to create a much-needed resource for the region and for the state.

I am pleased to support this initiative and thank you for your time and attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Damoose".

John N. Damoose
State Senator
37th Senate District

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS



Local No. 876 AFL-CIO

5000 E. Airport Road • Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone (616) 784.1133 • Fax (616) 784.8342

www.ibew876.com



To whom it may concern.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 876 is based in Mt Pleasant represents nearly 3000 workers including Electrical Lineworkers, Substation Technicians, Generation Plant Operators, Line Clearance Tree Trimmers, Telecommunications workers, and more. We have Collective Bargaining Agreements in Municipalities, Cooperatives, Rural Electrical Associations, and Utility Construction Contractors. We pride ourselves on offering well-paid and safety-oriented careers for electrical workers, and in-depth apprenticeships covering both On-the-job training and classroom learning. As we continue to build and develop our workforce for the changing needs within the energy sector, we embrace opportunities to partner with organizations throughout our territory who also have like-minded goals and value training and safety as a priority within the workforce.

With that mission in mind, our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

IBEW Local 876 supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

Samuel Braun,
Business Manager
SBraun@ibewlocal876.org





November 15, 2024

To whom it may concern.

Peninsula Fiber Network (PFN) is a telecommunications carrier that provides telecommunications, transport and broadband services for governments, businesses, and other telecommunication companies. We are also proud to partner with the public safety community to provide Next Generation 911 services (NG911) in Michigan and Wisconsin. Our secure, redundant fiber network extends through Michigan, Northern Wisconsin, into Canada, and in conjunction with our Indatel Network Consortium partners, PFN provides network access points across much of the United States.

Our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

PFN supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Sumblar
Senior Vice President



1901 W. Ridge St Suite 2 • Marquette MI 49855
906.226.2010 • FAX 906.226.7102 • www.pfnllc.net



November 14, 2024

To whom it may concern.

Highline is a high-speed internet and voice provider that serves previously underserved and unserved communities throughout the United States. Highline believes everyone deserves access to every opportunity that comes from fully participating in today's digital world. Highline is committed to bringing the power of fiber-enabled internet access to communities across the State of Michigan, and more specifically the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

With that mission in mind, our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

Highline supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

Bruce K. Moore

Bruce K. Moore
President and General Manager – Midwest
(989) 529-5152



SAULT STE. MARIE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

876 Marquette Avenue / Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Phone (906) 635-6609 – Fax (906) 635-6642

Dr. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer, Superintendent

November 18, 2024

To whom it may concern.

Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools is a traditional public school system in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. Our district proudly serves over 2,000 students, making us the largest district in the region. We are committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares our students for future success. At Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools, we believe in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can achieve their full potential. Our dedicated staff and educators work tirelessly to create a nurturing atmosphere that encourages academic excellence, personal growth, and lifelong learning.

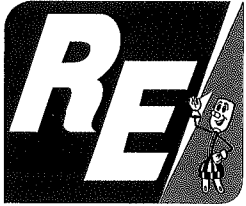
Our high school is equipped with an attached career center that plays a crucial role in promoting the workforce skills necessary for students to thrive in today's competitive job market. The career center offers a variety of programs and courses designed to equip students with practical skills and hands-on experience in various fields, including technology, healthcare, and the trades. This unique facility not only enhances our students' learning experiences but also provides them with valuable opportunities to explore potential career paths and gain real-world insights. Cloverland's new training center will be a perfect next step for our students in so many needed fields. It is innovative ideas like this that provide and promote high impact community careers and keep our students in our community after high school.

Sault Area Public Schools supports Cloverland's vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality. The training center will fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally. Should you wish to speak with me regarding the partnership and the relationship between Career and Technical education and the Cloverland training facility, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Scott-Kronemeyer".

Dr. Amy Scott-Kronemeyer



THE ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

December 18, 2024

Susan Brehm
Regional Director
EDA Chicago Regional Office

Re: Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Technology & Training Facility

Dear Ms. Brehm;

Ontonagon REA was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. In 1937, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community. While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community.

With that mission in mind, our community partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, as well as other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. One of the largest challenges in the Upper Peninsula is attracting and retaining the necessary talent that is needed to support growth and prosperity in the region. Having a facility that can work with all the community partners such as K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

Ontonagon REA supports this vision and looks forward to seeing it become a reality as it helps to fill a need in the region and will provide long-term payback through developing the workforce that is so desperately needed both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

Dallas Aho
CEO/General Manager



108TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DAVE PRESTIN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: (517) 373-0156
FAX: (517) 373-9370
DavePrestin@house.mi.gov

November 26, 2024
Susan Brehm
Regional Director
EDA Chicago Regional Office

Dear Ms. Brehm,

It is my honor to represent Michigan's 108th House District, which includes the Upper Peninsula counties of Delta, Menominee, Schoolcraft, Luce as well as parts of Chippewa, and Mackinac. If you haven't been to the Upper Peninsula, you'd be mesmerized by its beauty. As spectacular of a place to live as it is, it comes with unique challenges due to how rural the peninsula is. Attracting and keeping qualified employees continues to be a growing concern for our communities, affecting every aspect of our economy.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC) is undertaking an initiative that stands to help support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of building an indoor technology and training center will be the catalyst that the region needs to build the next generation workforce in sectors such as energy, broadband, and other emerging technologies such as data centers and Artificial Intelligence. Having a facility that can work with community partners including K12, higher education, industry partners, and governmental agencies creates a unique opportunity to begin showcasing career opportunities and job diversification to entice the next generation into these highly desired fields.

The Upper Peninsula is home to some of the most talented and self-sufficient people anywhere in the country. A training facility that can help develop that talent into a modern workforce necessary for emerging sectors will be transformative for the region in supporting growth and prosperity. I support this vision and look forward to seeing it become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Prestin", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Dave Prestin
State Representative
108th District



November 25, 2024

To whom it may concern.

Established in 1963, Power Line Supply Company (PLS) provides material distribution logistics, packaging, metering, protective equipment testing, tool repair, and technical services consulting. PLS is the nation's largest independently owned utility specific distributor. With strategically placed warehousing across the Midwest and the East Coast, we are well positioned to serve the electrical, gas, renewable, and communications markets. Our staff consists of electrical, civil, and mechanical engineers, with expertise in supply chain management, computer information systems, management information systems, marketing, and business. Our NAIL accredited laboratory provides rubber protective equipment, hot-stick, and dielectric testing services for nearly 1,000 businesses, utilities, municipalities, and contractors nationwide. Power Line Supply has dedicated its focus to the electric utility industry. Our goal is to provide every customer superior service while ensuring the best value to our customer. As a multi-faceted company with extensive experience in the industry, Power Line Supply is here to support the electric utility industry 100% of the time.

In alignment with this mission, our partner, Cloverland Electric Cooperative (CEC), is undertaking an initiative to support the growing needs of the region. CEC's vision of establishing an indoor technology and training center presents a transformative opportunity to address workforce challenges and foster regional growth. This center will serve as a catalyst for developing the next-generation workforce in key sectors such as energy, broadband, and emerging technologies like data centers and artificial intelligence.

One of the Upper Peninsula's largest challenges is attracting and retaining the talent necessary to drive growth and prosperity. A training center that collaborates with its community partners including K-12 schools, higher education institutions, industry leaders, and government agencies, offers a unique opportunity to showcase career pathways and promote job diversification. This initiative has the potential to inspire the next generation to pursue careers in high-demand fields that are critical to the region's future.

As a Michigan based business, Power Line Supply fully supports this vision and looks forward to its realization. This initiative addresses a critical regional need and promises long-term benefits by developing the workforce so essential for economic stability and growth—both locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Wheatlake', is written over a horizontal line.

Drew Wheatlake
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Utility Supply & Construction