



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

We Work Relentlessly to Help Businesses **Connect, Grow and Thrive.**

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Elissa Slotkin
Michigan's 7th Congressional District
2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slotkin:

Subject: Redevelopment of the Village of Okemos, Downtown Meridian Township

On behalf of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for the redevelopment of the "Village of Okemos", "Four Corners" or "Downtown Okemos". The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to delivering value and providing the tools and resources that businesses need to connect, grow and thrive. Whether it's making invaluable community and business connections, supporting transformational economic development, providing cost-saving membership benefits and professional development opportunities, or participating in public policy discussions that affect our region, the Lansing Regional Chamber strives to meet the needs of each of our 1,000+ members.

The redevelopment of the downtown core of Meridian Township started with requests from business owners and associations like ours, to combat the deterioration in the established downtown core. Now almost two decades since the inception, the community has a developer with the expertise to provide transformational economic change through the addition of 39,000 square feet of commercial space in the downtown core of Meridian Township. Viable businesses thrived through the early 90's at the intersection called "the four corners". Commonly referred to by the locals, the four corners was the heartbeat of the township. As development on Grand River increased, Okemos Road became an arterial route that led to the decline and closure of many small business in the area.

The proposed vision for downtown Meridian Township will propel the redevelopment of the district to support a mix of business types and sizes. An introduction of increased housing density will attract residents that will utilize the district for their daily needs. Without these necessary steps in revitalizing the downtown, Meridian would not be in position to fully reverse the economic decay of the district. We fully support the Village of Okemos redevelopment and transformational project of Downtown Meridian Township.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman
President & CEO