



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2014

Subject: Grayling Region I-75 Access Project

To whom it may concern:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Resources Division supports the initiative to develop a full service exchange on I-75 at North Down River Road in Grayling, Michigan. Currently the interchange limits access off of I-75 for travelers and creates problems with traffic flow for Grayling. An additional interchange would improve traffic flow for the general area and would assist in our wildfire response efforts, as fire support units coming from the south will be able to access lands north of Grayling more easily without having to navigate through traffic lights and congestion through town. The Grayling area is a high risk area for wildfire, and rapid response can be critical in keeping wildfires small and under control. Currently our response time is slowed by congestion or by driving extra miles on gravel roads to circumnavigate around town to get to needed locations. Direct access to North Down River Road off of I-75 would reduce response time for certain wildfire scenarios, assisting with public safety.

To conclude, I look forward to working with the community and any other organizations necessary to initiate the Grayling Region I-75 Access Project. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at 989-348-6371 x 7440 or at Thiels1@michigan.gov.

Sincerely

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