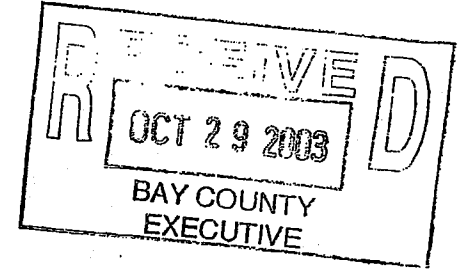




MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

October 24, 2003

300 N. WASHINGTON SQ.
LANSING, MI 48913
CUSTOMER
CONTACT CENTER
517 373 9808
WWW.MICHIGAN.ORG



Mr. Thomas Hickner, Executive
Bay County
515 Center Street
Bay City, MI 48708

Dear Mr. Hickner,

I am writing as a follow-up to my conversation with your chief assistant, Mike Gray. It is the opinion of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) that we remain indifferent to the type and style of organizational structure Bay County decides to proceed with regarding your economic development initiatives. We will work with all local organizations, so long as they can assure us of their role and commitment to furthering the economic prosperity of the community they represent.

Further, it is also our opinion that the recent Economic Development Forum, held in Bay County, has demonstrated a collaborative and consolidated commitment of local leadership. We would be willing at this time to entertain a request for funding to assist with the strategic planning efforts in Bay County.

While we are uncertain at this time what the cost of such a strategic plan would be, we have recently partnered with other communities of similar size and have a general idea of those costs. We are interested in furthering discussion regarding this important initiative and are encouraged by the recent progress. The MEDC's policy has been to fund up to 50% of the costs of these strategic plans with the community partnering on the remaining 50%.

Please feel free to contact me so we can discuss this opportunity further. I can be reached at 517-241-2106.

Sincerely,

John N. Schwedler

Jay Schwedler
Community Assistance Team
Michigan Economic Development Corporation

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