

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER ALLIANCE FY27 STATE BUDGET REQUESTS

KEY STATEWIDE PRIORITY ITEMS:

1. Office of Rural Prosperity
 - a. \$5M – Critical to not only maintain operations but also to provide extended services to rural communities
2. Increased funding for the Going Pro Talent Fund
 - a. \$110M – Highly utilized program throughout the region, this is a significant tool for maintaining a talented workforce
3. Continue funding for Michigan Reconnect
 - a. Expanding the age qualification to 21+
4. Sustained Funding for Pure Michigan
 - a. Maintain current funding levels for Pure Michigan

REGIONAL LDSI REQUESTS:

House District 102 - Senate District 32

- \$1.5M Downtown Manistee Public Infrastructure

House District 103/104 - Senate District 37

- \$5M Traverse City Airport Terminal Expansion

House District 105 - Senate District 36

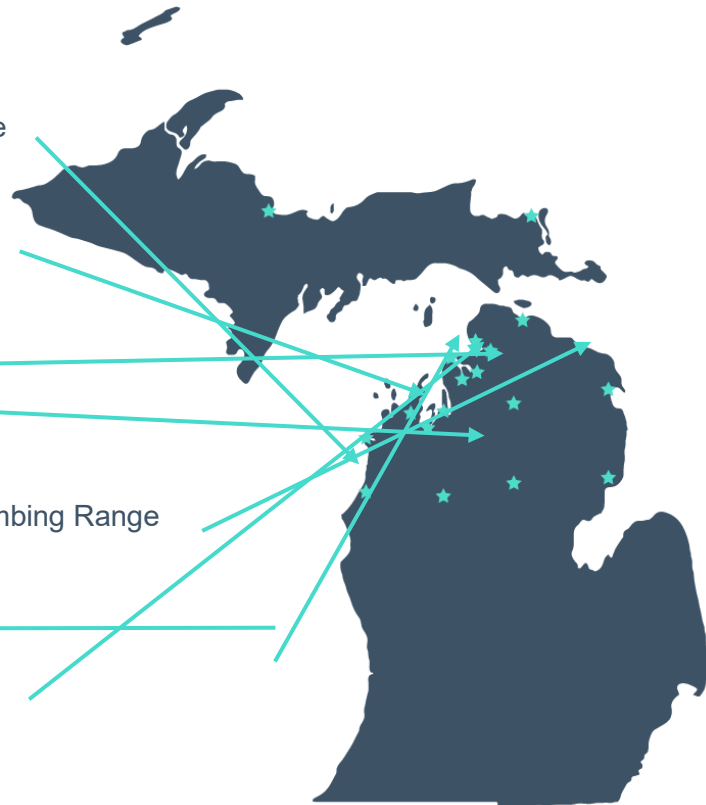
- \$641K City of Gaylord Water Infrastructure
- \$10M Lake City Dual Trunkline

House District 106 – Senate District 36

- \$1M Alpena Community College Next Gen. Climbing Range

House District 107 - Senate District 37

- \$5M NCMC Dental Hygienist Program
- \$1.8M East Jordan Water Infrastructure



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2026 Policy Priorities Overview

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 - HB [5293](#) (Hoadley): ensuring thresholds are low enough for rural small businesses to access. (100-120% AMI, 1 Job Created Qualifies, Regional Approach)
 - SB [213](#) and [214](#) (Damoose, McMorrow): Creation of a comprehensive economic development strategy for the state that incorporates the needs of Northern Michigan
 - HB [5305](#) and [5306](#) (VanWoerkom/BeGole) OR SB [721](#) and [722](#) (Moss): Sunset extension of 10 years for tax abatement
 - Business Development Program: performance-based grants that help existing businesses and new businesses overcome obstacles to growth and location in Northern Michigan

- **HOUSING**
 - HB [5400](#) and [5401](#) (Cavitt): Extending sunset, allowing local municipalities to attract housing infrastructure, specifically apartment-style housing
 - Any potential short-term rental legislation needs to balance local control with private enterprise
 - SB [278](#) (Shink): Expanding the scope of the MSHDA Housing and Community Development Program to allow more utilization of the program
 - Supports and incentives for workforce housing construction and availability
 - Tax-Break incentives for income-restricted senior residents who downsize

- **WORKFORCE AND TALENT**
 - Education- Improving and addressing 3rd-grade reading levels
 - SB [233](#) (Anthony): Expanding MI Reconnect Program
 - Supports for apprenticeship and internship programs
 - Childcare – SB [733](#) (Damoose): Expand Regulation to allow for Micro-Centers, increasing access for families
 - HB [5455](#) (Linting) – Removes Sunset from the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

- **ENERGY**
 - Incentives to lower the cost of energy for businesses and residents
 - Ensure comprehensive education and information concerning economic benefits and environmental concerns of data center potential locations
 - Expansion of Carbon Capture and Hydrogen Exploration
 - HB [4007](#) and [4283](#) (Bohnak/Prestin) – Expands definition of alternative energy sources to include RICE generators.