

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO AMEND THE VISITOR TAX ON HOTELS, MOTELS AND SHORT TERM RENTALS TO SUPPORT TRAVERSE CITY AND GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the infrastructure of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County, including roads, bridges, and public facilities, requires ongoing maintenance, repair, and expansion to ensure public safety and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the financial demands of providing essential public safety services, such as police, fire, and emergency medical response, continue to increase in both urban and rural areas in the city and across the county; and

WHEREAS, the protection and preservation of our vital natural resources, including waterways, parks, and recreational lands, are critical for the well-being of our citizens and for the tourism economy that benefits the city and county; and

WHEREAS, visitors and tourists who utilize temporary lodging services often place a strain on local infrastructure, public services, and natural resources, and it is therefore reasonable for them to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of these assets; and

WHEREAS, amending state law to authorize Grand Traverse County to receive and spend visitor tax revenues on local infrastructure and services would provide a new, equitable, and stable source of revenue to address critical funding needs without placing the burden on permanent residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned candidates for Traverse City Commission express and commit their strong support for legislative action to amend Michigan law to authorize Grand Traverse County and Traverse City to collect a local excise tax on hotel, motel, short term rentals and other transient temporary rooms to support infrastructure, public safety, and environmental protection projects.