



A letter to our neighbors and fellow Metamora Township residents.

I am writing to share with you the Boy Scouts' reasoning behind our decision to allow the Edw. C. Levy Company to pursue gravel harvesting activities at our Scout reservation in Metamora, and to confirm our commitment to be good stewards and good neighbors.

As many of you know, our Council (and its preceding Council) have engaged in ongoing discussions for more than 20 years regarding the issue of gravel harvesting at our camp. The main issues and concerns have not changed. As a resident property owner in Metamora Township, we consider ourselves a good citizen and appreciate the outstanding relationship and support we've had from our neighbors and friends over these past 65 years.

Our intention all along has been one of transparency which is why I want you to know about our reasoning and commitments as we move forward with this project.

The Boy Scouts have recently completed a significant state-wide consolidation of our nine former legacy Councils into one more effective and efficient state-wide organization. We believe the need for Scouting and its value to the State of Michigan is greater than it has ever been. Our camp properties play a critical role in our ability to offer the boys and girls we serve the best possible outdoor adventures. These reservations are outdoor learning laboratories that provide our youth a Scouting experience they will only get through the camp programming and services we offer.

To ensure a solid financial foundation for these programs and services for our Scouts, we are closing and consolidating properties, charging fair fees to users and responsibly harvesting resources such as timber, oil and gravel to support our infrastructure and programming. We take our responsibility as good financial stewards very seriously.

Improvements and upgrades to our camp properties are, for example, critical to the core mission of our organization. These capital expenditures will require significant funding to bring facilities and programs up to date to better serve the youth, our volunteers and the many outside organizations that use our properties.

Revenue generated from the harvesting of gravel at D-bar-A will enable our organization to help fund the work necessary to make the property improvements and upgrades. As you

know our state legislators reached an agreement to move forward on a massive scale with improvements to our roads, bridges, and infrastructure. State-mandated studies conclude that the raw materials necessary to make current and future improvements will be significant and the minerals on our property as well as others in the Metamora Township area will play a key role.

Be assured, we do not take lightly the concerns that are raised from this significant project. Before signing our agreement in 2004, an outside consulting firm conducted a due diligence study to ensure that the organization chosen to work with us had a high degree of integrity and a commitment to quality operational processes, while also understanding and appreciating the community's needs and concerns.

We selected the Levy Company for just those reasons. In reviewing the body of work it had prepared for these applications and requests, and its history in this state and surrounding communities, we are confident of a successful and mutually beneficial outcome.

We have reviewed and re-reviewed the results and examined the concerns that are normally identified in projects like this. I would ask that those of you with questions, concerns or interest review the Community Impact Statement which is available on the MCC website at **www.michiganscouting.org/D-bar-AProject**. Most of the answers to the questions that are being raised today and that we raised are contained within this document.

I pledge to continue this dialog, to transparently discuss concerns, and to be open to reasonable solutions to the issues we will face. We are planning to be a lifelong resident, neighbor and good citizen of Metamora Township and we are committed to providing the best possible outdoor leadership, learning and adventure experience for the youth.

Sincerely,

Matt Thornton, Scout Executive and CEO
Michigan Crossroad Council, Boy Scouts of America