



Thank you to the Grand Traverse County Health Department and the Grand Traverse County Commission for your consideration of an Onsite Wastewater and Sewage Disposal Regulation. I am reminded often that the preservation and protection of our region's water resources, forest, and natural areas is one of the few things that truly unites us who live in Northwest Michigan. I thank you for continuing to make this protection and preservation of our environment a priority.

Previously on behalf of Aspire North REALTORS®, I provided public comment at the Grand Traverse County Commission meeting on Feb. 19th along with detailed amendments in a 3-page letter from our association on some areas for improvement to the Onsite Wastewater and Sewage Disposal Regulation. These amendments were provided by our membership, representing many years of experience on local septic regulations from across our region. These amendments will increase transparency, support greater compliance, and provide greater efficiency. Some of these specific items include:

- Defining items like a wetland and an area of known water quality concern
- Establish standards for water sample collection, a timeframe for certification of inspection evaluation reports, and a timeframe for review of corrective action plans
- Allowance of financing options for Onsite Wastewater and Sewage Disposal system repairs to support the ability of our county's most vulnerable to afford to repair their systems
- Clarification on how proof of a corrective action plan can be provided to health department officials in a timely manner to ensure compliance and corrective actions to protect citizens and our environment; while understanding that proposed corrective actions in many cases will be dependent on the availability and expediency of private inspection companies.

Finally, I would just like to stress the importance of the need for clarity to the general public, including our REALTOR® members, of the properties that would be affected by this proposed regulation. We would propose this be done through mapping, and a database, identifying all properties located within 300 feet of surface water. This will be especially important as owners are likely not aware of their proximity to many wetlands in Grand Traverse County, defined as surface water in this regulation. These are just a few items we would like to see updated in the Grand Traverse Onsite Wastewater and Sewage Disposal Regulation. We look forward to working through these items with you to support an effective Onsite Wastewater and Sewage Disposal Regulation for our county. Thank you.

