



## Marquette County Ambassadors/Delta County Task Force 2014 Position Paper

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### THANK YOU FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Attendance at the UP200
- Attention paid to the UP by state staff, elected officials and resources
- Timely passage of state budget annually
- Healthy Michigan
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community opposition of land into trust
- Next MI Development Zone approval
- Support of the HB 4073; HB 4088; HB 4465; HB 4466; SB 133 amendments to MI Merit Curriculum (House/senate enrolled bills)
- Movement to eliminate PPT while keeping local government's funding intact
- Help and support for removal of the Escanaba River Bridge
- MEDC Step Program to help companies export
- Regional Prosperity Initiative
- Approval to change the makeup of the Pinecrest Board to include County Commissioners
- Connect Michigan Program for Broadband access, utilization, and adoption in rural communities
- Pure Michigan support and grant for the Bay de Noc Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Support of the UP State Fair and the independent operation of Michigan's only continuously operating state fair

### SHORT TERM ISSUES AFFECTING THE REGION:

- Secure generation of energy
- Transportation funding
- Expansion of cell coverage and broadband
- Community Mental Health funding
- Solution for road and infrastructure financing
- Permitted and funded alternative truck route
- Declaration of Delta County a State of Emergency Area
- Continued support and funding for statewide trail systems
- Environmentally respectful and easy to navigate permitting process for aquaculture
- Support of HB 4571 and HB 4572

### LONG TERM ISSUES AFFECTING THE REGION:

- Need for long term energy solutions in the Upper Peninsula
- Workforce preparation to fill gaps
- Increase funding and support for P-20
- Need for infrastructure upgrades and sustainable funding ie. roads, transmission, broadband, cellular coverage
- Cease of operations of Empire Mine in 2017
- Revenue Sharing
- Remove cumbersome reporting requirements and unfunded mandates for education and local government
- Solution for road and infrastructure financing
- Regional jail systems to address staffing and facilities issue
- Non-emergency transportation options for elderly and mental health patients