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August 13, 2026

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
102 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell,

Thank you for your letter regarding the University of Michigan's high-performance research computing center and future opportunities to directly engage with the Ypsilanti Township community. We deeply respect your advocacy on behalf of your constituents. We also share your belief that residents deserve meaningful opportunities to engage directly with university leaders as the project moves forward.

I want to be clear. The September 9 event will be a true public town hall, with opportunities for direct, real-time dialogue between Ypsilanti Township residents and university leaders. The university intends for residents to have a meaningful opportunity to raise questions, share concerns and receive substantive responses about the project.

We also recognize the specific issues you identified in your letter. Residents have raised important questions about water use and supply, energy demand and infrastructure, environmental impacts, public safety and local services, construction and traffic and the research activities that will take place in the facility. We are committed to addressing these issues openly and providing the community with the best information available as planning and design continue.

The university spent more than a year evaluating potential locations through extensive technical, environmental, engineering and operational analysis. That included conducting a second, more extensive review of the historic Willow Run complex in response to requests from Ypsilanti Township leaders and other stakeholders. Ultimately, Textile Road emerged as the location best able to meet the project's requirements while allowing the university to develop the facility responsibly.

Throughout the site evaluation process, community members consistently emphasized that any project moving forward should protect natural resources, minimize neighborhood impacts and continue meaningful public engagement. U-M takes those priorities seriously, and community feedback is already shaping the project. U-M will continue working with residents, local leaders and independent experts to address issues raised by the community as planning advances.

Only limited portions of the Textile Road site's 144 acres will be developed and the research center will be positioned to blend aesthetically into the surrounding area and preserve wetlands, mature vegetation and natural buffers. U-M also intends to maintain the Huron River waterfront portion of the property as natural open space, ensuring the river corridor remains undeveloped while protecting wildlife habitat and one of the site's most significant environmental assets.

Throughout this process, we have heard from residents of Ypsilanti Township who requested more opportunities to learn about the project, ask questions and share their perspectives. U-M is committed to creating additional opportunities for meaningful dialogue as the project advances. That effort will continue with a community town hall on September 9th at the Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eagle Crest — the university's third public event to discuss the project in the past year — with full details to be announced soon. Interested community members may also email the project team directly at hpc-center@umich.edu.

As you know, this project also represents a significant investment in Michigan's and the nation's future. The research computing center will create hundreds of construction, research and technical jobs, attract additional federal and private investment, and strengthen partnerships with industry. It will also help Michigan attract and retain world-class researchers and students, while creating new opportunities to ensure that more of the discoveries, companies and careers of the future take root here in our state.

We look forward to meeting with the Ypsilanti Township community to listen, answer questions, and demonstrate our commitment to developing this world class research facility in a responsible manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Domenico Grasso", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Domenico Grasso
President