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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Domenico Grasso
Interim President
University of Michigan
3190 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079

Dear President Grasso:

This letter is a follow up to last evening's open house regarding the proposed University of Michigan-Los Alamos data center. The format did not meet the needs of the community and did not substitute for the public town hall meeting. For months, Ypsilanti Township residents have been asking for clear and direct engagement as uncertainty around this data center has continued to grow.

The community wants and should have a forum where questions are asked and answered publicly. Instead, the open house was structured as many residents described it as a *show-and-tell* rather than providing a forum for any meaningful dialogue. Without the opportunity for this dialogue, residents left without a clear understanding of the facts and without answers to their questions.

Of deep concern to me is the miscommunication regarding site selection. On multiple occasions, including this week, I have been told by U-M that no site decisions had been made and that multiple locations were still under consideration. Last night, as I continued to say that to residents, a senior U-M official told a reporter that U-M is down to two sites: Willow Run and the Textile Road site along the Huron River in Ypsilanti Township.

This is an example of the lack of transparency and poor communication that has existed between U-M and the community since the beginning of this project. I am extremely angry that the lack of communication last evening forced me to provide inaccurate information to my constituents. This is emblematic of the broader challenges that have frustrated the community.

U-M and its partners have a responsibility to communicate clearly, consistently, and proactively with this community. Residents have a right to understand proposals being considered in their own backyard, to be meaningfully engaged before decisions are made, know what the impact is going to be on them themselves, on the environment, on utility rates, on water usage rates, and on their taxes.

What is needed now is a formal, public town hall in Ypsilanti Township that brings the experts together to answer communication in an open and collective setting. Residents have been asking for this for more than a year. The community needs clarity and accountability.

Ypsilanti Township does not view U-M as a good neighbor, nor has U-M's behavior gained anyone's trust. If it is true that the project has been narrowed to two sites, it has been clear that Ypsilanti Township does not support the Textile Road location but is not opposed to development at Willow Run. If that is the case, I hope U-M is paying attention to this feedback. The University of Michigan has significant work to do to build trust with the community and restoring that trust must be U-M's top priority in fostering a successful partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress