



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER KATIE SCOTT, DISTRICT 9

CHAIR, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

220 N MAIN ST | ANN ARBOR, MI | 48104

Dear Supervisor Stumbo, Clerk Swanson, and Treasurer Eldridge and Honorable Trustees,

Thank you for your letter regarding Resolution 2026-05 and the proposed Los Alamos National Laboratory facility. I appreciate the time and effort that the Ypsilanti Township Board, residents, and community stakeholders have devoted to this discussion.

As Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, I have made it a practice to be mindful of the distinct roles and responsibilities of different units of government. Land use, zoning, and development decisions are matters that are largely entrusted to local municipalities and townships under Michigan law. While that division of authority can sometimes be frustrating, it also preserves local control and allows communities to make decisions through their own elected representatives.

For that reason, I am generally reluctant to weigh in on matters that fall within the jurisdiction of another governmental body. I would not expect township officials to direct county policy decisions, and I believe the same respect should be afforded in the other direction. Maintaining those boundaries helps ensure that each level of government can fulfill its responsibilities without undue interference from another.

Additionally, as Chair, I have tried to consistently defer to the commissioner or commissioners who directly represent the area most affected by an issue. In this case, Commissioners Justin Hodge and Annie Somerville have both publicly communicated their views regarding this matter, and I believe it is appropriate that they speak for the districts they were elected to represent. I do support continued transparency, community engagement, and opportunities for residents to have their questions answered. In that regard, I believe Congresswoman Dingell's request for additional information and dialogue reflects a constructive path forward.

The County's authority with respect to land use and development is limited, and I am not seeking to alter the longstanding framework that grants local municipalities substantial control over these decisions. While I respect the concerns raised by township residents and officials, I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to insert myself into a matter that is primarily within the jurisdiction of another elected body.

Thank you again for sharing your perspective and for your service to the residents of Ypsilanti Township.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Scott".

Katie Scott

Chair, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners