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July 28, 2025

Mr. Phil Roos
Director
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Constitution Hall
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Dear Director Roos:

I am writing regarding the continued migration of the 1,4 dioxane plume originating from the former Gelman Sciences facility in Washtenaw County. Recent sampling by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) raises concern that the plume may be continuing to spread, now contaminating at least 52 residential drinking water wells, including six new detections in 2025. These new detections bring the contamination closer to the Huron River and Barton Pond, which provide drinking water to Ann Arbor.

Out of 117 private wells tested this year, 47 showed detectable levels of dioxane, indicating the contamination is more widespread than previously understood. Experts have warned that the 4th Amended Consent Judgment has failed to contain the plume, that current cleanup efforts are insufficient, and that Michigan's cleanup level of 7.2 parts-per-billion (ppb) is not protective.

As you know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed adding the Gelman site to the Superfund National Priorities List in March 2024. However, the site was not included due to a high volume of public comments requiring further review and response. While I understand the need for thorough consideration, the ongoing spread of this plume into a major urban area's drinking water supplies demands urgent and coordinated action at the federal, state, and local levels.

Given this, I request your response to the following questions:

- What is EGLE's current assessment of the plume's location, rate of migration, and risks to private wells, the Huron River, and Barton Pond?

- What actions is EGLE taking to protect residents' drinking water and monitor further contamination?
- Does EGLE plan to adopt the more sensitive EPA Method 522 (detection limit of 0.12 ppb) in future testing to ensure early detection?
- How will the state improve communication of health risks to residents, given that any detectable level of dioxane is classified by EPA as likely carcinogenic to humans?

Protecting the health and safety of our communities is a responsibility shared by all levels of government. The continued spread of this contamination into residential drinking water supplies requires our immediate attention.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

**CC: The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator, EPA; The Honorable Anne Vogel,
Regional Administrator, EPA Region 5**