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September 16, 2026

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

Dear President Grasso:

This letter is to follow up the ongoing concerns surrounding the proposed University of Michigan-Los Alamos National Laboratory research computing center in Ypsilanti Township and to request additional information regarding the agreement between the University of Michigan (U-M) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to develop this site.

I remain deeply frustrated by the lack of transparency, accountability, and meaningful communication surrounding this project. U-M and LANL have continued progress on this data center despite substantial and strong community opposition. Residents have spent years seeking answers about the project's potential effects on water, electricity, noise, the environment, property values, and quality of life, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved. The community has been left to piece together information rather than receive clear answers from the institutions responsible for the project.

These concerns were particularly evident at U-M's September 9, 2026, town hall, where residents expressed significant distrust regarding the U-M's handling of the project. U-M itself acknowledged hearing "enormous anger" and "enormous distrust" from the community.¹ This level of frustration underscores the need for a more transparent and accountable approach moving forward. The community must be treated as a meaningful partner in decisions that will affect its future, not as an afterthought.

U-M's limited public information about the project's financing and institutional arrangements is concerning. According to current project information, the proposed \$1.25 billion facility would

¹ Allnutt, B. "University of Michigan's Ypsilanti Township computing center plans meet with anger at town hall: 'Enormous distrust'." *Planet Detroit*. 10 Sept. 2026. Retrieved from: <https://planetdetroit.org/2026/09/ypsilanti-township-uofm-data-center-opposition/>.

involve \$300 million from LANL, \$850 million from U-M, and \$100 million in Strategic Site Readiness Program grant funding from the State of Michigan.² The state has also indicated that the LANL facility would conduct federally funded research involving national security, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), and energy security.

Despite the size, scale, and significance of this project, the public has received minimal information about the actual agreement between U-M and LANL, including the legal authority for LANL's proposed contribution, the source and status of the funds, and the conditions governing any financial commitment.

There is an important distinction between an agreement stating that LANL may contribute \$300 million and an executed federal appropriation, contract, or other federal financial instrument that has obligated taxpayer dollars for this facility. The public deserves clarity about that distinction and should not have to rely on conflicting or incomplete descriptions of the project's federal funding.

Given the continued lack of transparency and the significance of the community concerns surrounding this project, I ask that U-M make the underlying agreement publicly available so that Ypsilanti Township residents and local officials can better understand the proposed data center's structure, funding, and accountability. I also urge U-M to provide clear answers to the following questions:

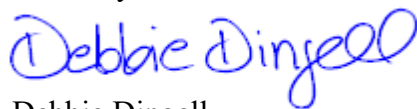
1. What is the date of the agreement between the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop this data center?
2. Which parties signed this agreement?
3. Is this agreement legally binding?
4. Have any federal dollars been appropriated for this project?
5. Have any federal dollars been obligated for this project?
6. Have any federal dollars been transferred for this project?
7. What legal authority allows Los Alamos National Laboratory to make the proposed \$300 million contribution towards this project?

² Love, L. "Legislative support bolsters U-M, Los Alamos computing facility." *The University Record*. 20 Dec. 2024. Retrieved from: <https://record.umich.edu/articles/legislative-support-bolsters-u-m-los-alamos-computing-facility/>.

8. Has the Department of Energy approved or authorized the agreement between the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory?
9. What conditions must be met before funding is put towards this project?
10. Was Los Alamos National Laboratory's commitment to contribute \$300 million contingent on site selection?
11. Was Los Alamos National Laboratory's commitment to contribute \$300 million contingent on environmental approvals?
12. Was Los Alamos National Laboratory's commitment to contribute \$300 million contingent on other regulatory approvals?
13. What happens to this commitment if this project is delayed, changed, or cancelled?
14. Who is responsible for cost overruns?
15. Does this agreement include any federal guarantees or commitments?
16. Is there a federal contract, cooperative agreement, grant agreement, memorandum of understanding, or federal instrument associated with this data center agreement or proposed data center?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response and to U-M's cooperation in providing the transparency and information the community deserves.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress