

October 8, 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 September 16th letter regarding the University of Michigan's (U-M) high-performance research computing center. We deeply respect your advocacy on behalf of your constituents and appreciate the ability to engage directly with you on the specific issues you identified in your letter.

As we have previously stated, U-M is dedicated to responding to 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 have committed to addressing these issues openly – and will provide the best information available as planning and design continue.

1. What is the date of the agreement between the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop this data center?

The University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 11/25/2024 (U-M) and 11/26/2025 (LANL).

2. Which parties signed this agreement?

The MOU was signed by former U-M President Santa Ono on behalf of the University, and by LANL Director Thom Mason on behalf of LANL.

3. Is this agreement legally binding?

The MOU does not create any legal obligations.

4. Have any federal dollars been appropriated for this project?

There have been no direct federal dollars appropriated for the project. LANL used indirect funding to help pay for a site agnostic design.

5. Have any federal dollars been obligated for this project?

LANL has supported a portion of the site agnostic design effort. No additional federal dollars have been obligated for the construction of this project.

6. Have any federal dollars been transferred for this project?

LANL has supported a portion of the site agnostic design effort through indirect funding.

7. What legal authority allows Los Alamos National Laboratory to make the proposed \$300 million contribution towards this project?

The LANL Prime Contract provides legal authority to manage Simulation Codes and Computational Resources, Scientific Capabilities Experiments and Tests, Nuclear Materials Management, and the Safeguards and Security Technology Program. However, no funding has yet been planned in out years by these programs.

8. Has the Department of Energy approved or authorized the agreement between the University of Michigan and Los Alamos National Laboratory?

While U-M and LANL have executed a MOU, the MOU does not authorize work or performance – all activities require a separate agreement that will govern specific terms, conditions, funding, and any other contractual obligations between U-M and LANL. There is no additional obligation between U-M and LANL. The classified computing center is not currently in the out years' National Nuclear Security Administration budget profile.

9. What conditions must be met before funding is put towards this project?

A facility must be substantially complete and federal funds must be appropriated for the purpose.

10. Was Los Alamos National Laboratory's commitment to contribute \$300 million contingent on site selection?

LANL has made no commitment of funds.

11. Was Los Alamos National Laboratory's commitment to contribute \$300 million contingent on environmental approvals?

LANL has made no commitment of funds.

12. Was Los Alamos National Laboratory's commitment to contribute \$300 million contingent on other regulatory approvals?

LANL has made no commitment of funds.

13. What happens to this commitment if this project is delayed, changed, or cancelled?

This is a broad question, and the specific implications would depend on the nature and extent of the delay, change, or cancellation. However, in any of these circumstances, U-M would be responsible for addressing the resulting impacts and determining the appropriate next steps.

14. Who is responsible for cost overruns?

U-M is responsible for funding any cost overruns.

15. Does this agreement include any federal guarantees or commitments?

The MOU does not include any guarantees or commitments of funding.

Domenico Grasso
President

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?

The U-M and LANL MOU is titled: Transformative Collaboration Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Engineering, Materials and Physics: Advancing National Security, Scientific Progress, and Global Sustainability. This MOU describes the overarching proposed collaboration between U-M and LANL, but it does not authorize any work or create any performance obligations – all such activities will require separate agreements that will govern specific terms, conditions, funding, and any other contractual obligations between U-M and LANL.

U-M looks forward to continued engagement as we work to 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