

## **SENT VIA U.S. POSTAL MAIL AND EMAIL**

May 17, 2023

Township Board Eagle Township 14318 Michigan Street Eagle, MI 48822

Dear Honorable Eagle Township Board Members:

Michigan State University is among the state's largest public higher education institutions developing leaders who will solve the challenges of today and the future. We also proudly stand as the nation's original agricultural college, which regularly contributes to groundbreaking discoveries and advancements that benefit the entire world.



Our roots in the agricultural community run deep and wide. And our commitment to the strength of Michigan growers and that of our local and state economies is steadfast.

MSU alumnus David Morris shared in these commitments; he saw the value of investing in both his community and the next generation of farmers. His land bequest to MSU in 2005 was part of a dedication to growing the future of the agricultural community by helping fund Michigan State's world-class education, outreach and research.

Mr. Morris' expressed expectation was that this land would eventually be sold and that 55% of the proceeds would fund four endowments within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and therefore benefit agricultural research, education and outreach in perpetuity. He was clear in his wish that this gift to MSU would support the college's causes closest to his heart, and we intend to honor that wish. The remaining 45% of the funds will benefit Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids, as Mr. Morris stipulated.

As the first school to teach scientific agriculture in the United States, we stand firm in our commitment to advancing agriculture in Michigan. We will continue to support this upward trajectory by investing in farm-first research, by providing responsive, in-the-fields outreach and by training the workforce that our state needs, across many sectors and industries.

In addition to our agricultural mission, we share a similarly deep-seated commitment to the strength and vibrancy of our local communities and Michigan's growing economy. It is part of our land-grant mission and is showcased through our partnerships and presence spanning all of Michigan's 83 counties.

What lies before our shared communities today brings a unique opportunity to blend our passion for the future of agriculture and our pledge for a better, brighter future for our communities, region and state. The eventual sale of this property stands to bring hundreds, perhaps thousands, of good-paying jobs to Eagle Township and our region, boosting the local

tax revenue and strengthening the vibrancy of our collective economy. The proposed development will bring engineering and professional service careers to the area and additional collaborations with our university and Lansing Community College.

As you consider the opportunity before you, we hope you will join us in investing in the continued economic vitality of this community, our region and the state.

Sincerely,

Melissa Woo, Ph.D.

**Executive Vice President for** 

Administration & Chief Information Officer

Kathleen M. Wilbur, Ph.D. Senior Vice President for Government Relations

Kathleen M. Milben