



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

We Work Relentlessly to Help Businesses **Connect, Grow and Thrive.**

April 14, 2023

Director Henry McKoy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of State and Community Energy Programs  
1000 Independence Ave, SW  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Director McKoy,

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Lansing School District's (District) proposal of a \$1.35 million innovative technology package for Gier Park Elementary School to definitively establish a highly effective model for full electrification of schools in the Northern regions of the United States. The comprehensive package proposes the purchase and installation of heat pumps, dynamic energy efficiency, onsite solar, and electric vehicle charging stations — ultimately delivering a zero-carbon, all-electric, and healthy school in a northern cold-weather climate. At the heart of this effort is the electrification of space and water systems, an essential component of zero-carbon buildings.

Due to its location, Lansing, MI presents a perfect case study to establish a model for achieving all-electric HVAC in cold climates. Upfront cost pressures, combined with facility engineer concerns about a heat pump's ability to deliver comfortable indoor conditions, result in a difficult-to-break inertia of using gas- and oil-fired boilers to provide heating. This grant-funded project would set Gier Park and Lansing on a new path — and, in so doing, demonstrate that full electrification is within reach for schools in cold-weather climates across the country.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with District and other community partners to fulfill our commitment to renewable energy and an improved learning environment for our Lansing students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman  
President & CEO  
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce