



June 3, 2020

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer:

The failures of the Edenville and Sanford Dams on May 19, 2020 resulted in catastrophic property and natural resource damage. While it is fortunate that there was no loss of life, the U.S. Society on Dams (USSD) extends its heartfelt sympathy for the thousands of residents that were forced to evacuate and for their loss of property.

USSD is a national professional engineering society comprised of professionals working in the dam and levee industry; and the U.S. National Committee of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). USSD's vision is a world where all dams and levees are safe and valued by the communities they serve.

Dams and levees are a critical component of our nation's infrastructure and provide great societal benefits. These structures also create significant risks to downstream communities, vital infrastructure, and the environment. Dam and levee owners and safety professionals must manage these risks such that the benefits of dams and levees outweigh their potential risks.

USSD's members represent some of the most experienced engineering experts in the field of dams and levees. Many were represented on the Forensics Team created for the 2017 Oroville spillway failure. We offer this expertise should the State of Michigan convene a similar group.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if we can provide any information or guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Bunte-Bisnett".

Denise Bunte-Bisnett
USSD Board President
dabunteb@santecooper.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Powers".

Sharon Powers
USSD Executive Director
sharon@ussdams.org