November 10, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for extending your prior authorizations for the use of Michigan National Guard forces under Title 32, U.S.C., Section 502(f). The Michigan National Guard remains a crucial part of the state's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Guard is vital to our ongoing recovery as well.

Michigan, as in many other states, is experiencing a marked incline in our COVID-19 positive cases across the state. To provide a synergetic, holistic response Michigan has been heavily relying on the Michigan National Guard's efforts to perform widespread testing and screening, distributing personal protective equipment, and assisting at numerous food banks across the state. The Guard is partnering with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and local health departments to offer COVID-19 testing, provide antigen training for health care practitioners, and to provide informational assistance in call centers.

This week, Pfizer and BioNTech announced that they are accelerating the large-scale testing of vaccines that should provide Americans an added layer of immunity from the virus. In anticipation of rapid approval from the Food and Drug Administration, Michigan will look to the Michigan National Guard to provide logistical support and transportation support to help distribute the vaccine.

Due to the increasing COVID-19 positive rates and the anticipated distribution of a vaccine in early 2021, I ask that you extend authorization for Title 32 at 100%

federal funding for the National Guard through March 31, 2021, for COVID-19 response and vaccine related activities.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

cc: Christopher Miller, Acting Secretary, Department of Defense; Peter T. Gaynor, Administrator, FEMA; Kevin M. Sligh, Acting Administrator, FEMA Region V