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Dear Members of the Historic District Commission,

My name is Kenneth Fischer. I write this letter both as President of the University Musical Society (UMS) of the University of Michigan for the past 28 years and as a 32-year resident of Ann Arbor. I encourage you to approve The Glen hotel project, whose application will come before you tonight for reconsideration under the 'public benefit' exception.

I know the people who will oversee The Glen project. They have broad and deep ties to Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, and UMS. In addition to their commitment to cleaning up the highly contaminated site, those responsible for The Glen will be contributing to the city's low-income housing fund, creating up to 200 permanent jobs, and providing a hotel in the area with much-needed high-quality sleeping rooms and conference and banquet facilities.

The Glen will be located a short walk from the Power Center, Mendelssohn Theater, Rackham Auditorium, and Hill Auditorium. We know that its ideal location and high-quality amenities will be welcomed by the thousands of international performing artists and ensembles who visit the community each year and perform in these venues, most under the auspices of UMS. We also know that U-M's health system will also welcome having an upscale hotel property within walking distance of the Medical Campus to serve its patients, their families, and visiting physicians and medical scholars. Our U-M colleagues on Main Campus will also welcome The Glen as a place to host its visiting scholars, alumni, and donors.

As a commercial property, The Glen will provide a mixed use development that will contribute to the tax base and services of the city for many years to come. The alternative would likely be the construction of a University of Michigan building that would be exempt from taxes.

I encourage you to approve The Glen.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Fischer, President