

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

June 4, 2025

Mr. Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
Chief Executive & Economic Competitiveness Officer
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

Ms. Gretchen Gonzales Davidson
Chair
Michigan Arts and Culture Council
300 N. Washington Sq.
Lansing, MI 48913

Mr. Messer & Ms. Davidson:

I write to respectfully request reconsideration of the appeal submitted by the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame and Museum ("the Museum") regarding its 2025-26 grant application to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC).

Located in Ishpeming – the birthplace of organized skiing in America – the Museum has, for nearly 75 years, contributed to the cultural and economic vitality of Michigan through its preservation of our state's rich snowsports heritage and its promotion of tourism to the Upper Peninsula.

The Museum's 2025-26 grant application to MACC was recently disqualified due to what appears to have been a minor, unexplainable discrepancy in its Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Although the Museum's UEI was copied directly from SAM.gov into the Michigan SmartSimple portal utilized by MACC for this grant, a single-character variation occurred in which the letter "Z" was recorded as a "2" – resulting in the UEI being submitted as "W1KCYK2JBAH6" instead of "W1KCYKZJBAH6." Unfortunately, this discrepancy was not flagged at the time of submission, ultimately leading to the application's disqualification.

Concerningly, the Museum was not informed of its disqualification until after other entities had already begun receiving notice of their grant awards, leaving few avenues for recourse. While the Museum promptly filed an appeal with MACC and submitted documentation from SAM.gov confirming the correct UEI, its appeal was summarily denied, and no opportunity has been provided for reconsideration.

Further complicating matters, the appeal summary presented during the review process contained inaccuracies related to the amount of funds requested by the Museum and the nature of the UEI discrepancy. These issues may have unintentionally influenced the committee's decision and warrant a closer look to ensure the review process was as accurate, fair, and transparent as possible.

The Museum has a strong record of partnership with both federal and state agencies and has previously received funding from MACC through the same active UEI number in question.



Funding is desperately needed for the Museum's continued operations and success. Without it, the Museum will likely be forced to close, resulting in the relocation of the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame and Museum to Park City, Utah – where state support is not only readily available but already being committed in anticipation of such a move.

The high likelihood of the Museum leaving Michigan due to an unexplainable clerical error would be a serious cultural and economic loss – not just for the Upper Peninsula, but for the state and our Nation as a whole.

Given the unique and irreplaceable role the Museum plays in preserving and promoting Michigan's snowsports heritage – and the fact that other entities with similar clerical discrepancies reportedly received successful appeals – I urge both MACC and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to reassess the Museum's application and explore every possible option to provide support. Whether through grant reconsideration, administrative flexibility, or alternate funding sources, a solution must be found.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please know my office stands ready to assist MACC and MEDC in any way possible, so please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Bergman". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

cc: Governor Gretchen Whitmer