



April 18, 2022

Michigan Businesses Support Climate Action

Dear Governor Whitmer,

As major businesses, employers, and consumer brands in Michigan, we write to express our support for the transition to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050, as set out in [Executive Order 2020-182](#). The Executive Order created the Council on Climate Solutions (“Council”) to advise the Governor and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in the formulation and implementation of the “MI Healthy Climate Plan.”

Climate change poses a significant risk to our businesses, threatens the competitiveness and livelihoods of our supply chains, and impacts the communities in which we operate. Because of these risks to our businesses, consumers, and employees, we view climate action as a top priority for Michigan and we offer our support for statewide strategies that will achieve carbon-neutrality by 2050. Such strategies will help ensure prolonged profitability, reduce risk, safeguard the resilience of our supply chains, and allow us to better meet the growing demands of our customers and investors. We have made similar climate commitments to reduce GHG emissions in our own operations and supply chains, and we look forward to working together to follow through on them.

At **Ben & Jerry's**, we know that our business is and will be directly threatened by climate change—and see decarbonizing the economy as an urgent policy priority. Our [climate priorities](#) cover every aspect of our operations, from addressing waste management in our sourcing, ingredients, and packaging to improving the efficiency and renewable energy usage of our manufacturing facilities and scoop shops. We have been working to reduce our environmental impact for decades, and finally have the data to set science-based targets for our climate commitments: 1) our company-owned facilities will use 100% renewable energy by

2025; 2) we will reduce our emissions intensity by 40% by 2025 (from a 2015 baseline); and 3) we will reduce our emissions intensity by 80% by 2050.

As a certified B Corporation, we at **Brewery Vivant** and **Broad Leaf Brewery & Spirits** take our triple bottom line of People, Planet & Profit, seriously. We're the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified commercial microbrewery in the world and we work hard to minimize our waste and water & energy usage. We are committed to locally sourcing our purchases, including agricultural inputs, both in support of our local economy and in an effort to reduce transportation. We are also an inaugural member of the DOE's Better Climate Challenge where we committed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 50% and energy intensity by 25% in 10 years. Clean energy and sustainable business practices are the only way forward for Michiganders.

At **Crystal Mountain**, respecting the environment is one of our core values and we strive to ensure that our resort is committed to more sustainable solutions. We have developed infrastructure such as walkable/bikeable grounds, free guest EV charging, and use an EV as our primary resort security vehicle. Crystal Mountain's LEED certified spa using heat pump technology is the first in the Midwest, and we have incorporated other energy efficient geothermal building HVAC solutions powered by over 60% clean energy from our electric utility. We have re-lamped our resort buildings with LED lights, saving tens of thousands of kilowatt hours of electricity annually. We regularly invest in energy efficient pumps, motors, pipes, controls, and transformers for our public water supply, our wastewater and stormwater removal systems, and other utility infrastructure that furthers Crystal Mountain's sustainability efforts and will help to ensure that our resort community will remain resilient and beautiful for generations to come.

As a global purpose-led company in health, nutrition, and bioscience, **DSM** values safe and sustainable scientific choices. We align ourselves with the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals** advocating urgent action on climate change to our stakeholders. By **2030**, we hope to have reduced our Scopes I and II emissions by 50%. We have also set a long-term target to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and are ahead of **schedule** in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are constantly improving our resource efficiency: we consistently recycle 85% of our waste and are committed to being a global **water steward** by focusing on water-stressed sites in areas that need it most. We are dependent on clean, fresh water for our production, and we have established a process of conducting water risk assessments. As an organization, we recognize that sustainability efforts impact all of us economically and socially in all areas of our lives; and we believe that it is simply irresponsible to not act in the best interest of our climate.

The climate crisis demands urgent action and systemic change. In order to address the climate crisis, the fashion industry must move from the linear take-make-waste model into a sustainable system that replaces or replenishes the resources involved. That is why **EILEEN FISHER** has launched **Horizon 2030™**, our initiative to address our operation's carbon footprint.

Through the lens of carbon reduction, we are examining our most fundamental processes: designing our main line product up to and including our products' second life as in EILEEN FISHER Renew product or as feedstock for the fiber-to-fiber recycling program that is part of EILEEN FISHER Waste No More. By focusing on these circular initiatives, we strive to emit less by making more use of the resources we already have in-hand. EILEEN FISHER has Science-Based Targets for emission reductions. By 2025, we are aiming for a 25% reduction in GHG emissions created during the production and shipping of our garments (compared to a 2017 baseline). We also monitor our suppliers' emissions and energy use with the Higg Facilities Environmental Module, encouraging them to establish and make progress toward their own goals.

Ford is leading the electric vehicle revolution, investing more than \$50 billion in electric vehicles through 2025, committing to carbon neutrality no later than 2050, and bringing exciting, all-electric versions of America's most popular vehicles to market, including the all new, all electric F-150 Lightning. We're transforming our business and going all-in on electrification because we know it's good for people and the planet. With investments in world-class facilities, such as the Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn, we're proud to be leading America's transition to electric vehicles, creating jobs, and ushering in a new era of clean, carbon-neutral manufacturing from our home right here in Michigan.

General Mills is proud to have achieved 100% renewable power for our direct operational needs in the United States. In line with scientific consensus, our long-term goal is to achieve net-zero emission levels across our full value chain by 2050, with an interim target of a 30% reduction by 2030. As a global food company, our business is rooted in the health of agricultural systems – systems that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and can play a key role in reducing emissions. General Mills is committed to **advancing regenerative agriculture** on one million acres of farmland by 2030. We recently launched a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture to improve soil health and water quality in the Great Lakes Basin as well as a dedicated regenerative dairy. Regenerative farming improves soil health while reducing energy inputs and enabling higher profit margins for farmers. We see restoring soil health by applying farming practices, such as diverse crop rotations and cover cropping, as a crucial strategy for reducing GHG emissions by increasing soil-based carbon capture.

At **General Motors**, we believe in a future with zero crashes, zero emissions, and zero congestion, and are working to achieve this more sustainable and equitable future. We have pledged to become carbon neutral by 2040, to be powered 100% by renewable energy in the U.S. by 2025 and globally by 2035, and to introduce 30 new electric vehicles globally by 2025. As part of our commitment to a future with EVerybody In, we recently pledged \$50 million to our philanthropic Climate Equity Fund to address equity gaps in the transition to the all-electric future. In Detroit and Hamtramck, we recently opened Factory ZERO, dedicated to the assembly of all-electric trucks and SUVs. In January, we announced a historic commitment to invest \$7 billion in four manufacturing facilities which will create 4,000 new jobs and retain 1,000, and help make Michigan the hub for electric vehicle production.

IKEA Retail U.S. recognizes that unsustainable consumption, climate change, and growing inequalities are critical challenges for the world. IKEA's **People & Planet Positive strategy** sets comprehensive climate and sustainability goals for 2030, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals. We aim to leverage our size and brand to inspire more than 1 billion people to respect planetary boundaries; to become circular and climate positive, regenerating resources to support the IKEA brand; and create positive social impacts along IKEA's value chain. We strongly support the Paris Climate Agreement—we are committed to becoming climate positive by reducing more GHG emissions than the IKEA value chain emits, with end goals of halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050 at the latest. We're committed to Michigan too -- our store in Canton uses a rooftop solar array, Michigan's largest when it was constructed, to generate almost 1.5 million kWh of clean electricity each year.

At **JLL**, we are committed to a net-zero future. We know there is a strong and direct correlation between our environmental, social and corporate governance performance and the long-term health and success of our business. We address this by putting into action our **sustainability program** to deliver transformative changes for our business, our people, our clients, our communities and our planet. In 2020, as part of our purpose to shape the future of real estate for a better world, we signed the World Green Building Council's Net-Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, pledging to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from JLL-occupied buildings by 2030. Building on this pledge, in October 2021, the **Science Based Target initiative (SBTi)** **certified our commitment** to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across our value chain by 2040. This places JLL among a select group of global companies to be recognized for aligning its net-zero commitments with climate science. With offices in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Grand Rapids, we employ Michiganders and serve clients across the state.

Johnson Controls holds sustainability as a critical part of our vision and values, and our environmental commitments are fully integrated into company goals and decision-making. JCI first set sustainability goals in 2002, and the company has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions intensity from our global operations by more than 70%. Since then, JCI has committed to reducing its Scope 1 & 2 emissions in alignment with a 1.5°C pathway for global temperature rise, as well as reducing Scope 3 emissions in alignment with a well below 2°C pathway, both of which have been approved by the Science Based Targets Initiative. Further, we have committed to net-zero emissions from our operations by 2040 and will direct 75% of R&D spending on new product development for sustainable solutions. JCI is AAA rated by MSCI and recognized among the Top 100 Most Sustainable Companies by Corporate Knights, including the #1 ranking for our peer group in 2022.

Strong environmental performance is a key economic advantage for **Siemens**, and as such we are committed to achieving a net-zero carbon footprint for all Siemens production facilities and buildings worldwide by 2030. Right now, 78% of the electricity consumption of Siemens facilities is supplied by renewable electricity, and we have reduced operational carbon dioxide emissions by 36% in the past two years alone. Siemens is also deeply committed to efficiency—we have invested over \$70 million in energy efficiency projects, netting annual savings of approximately

\$14.6 million. Beyond our own operations, we actively support our customers in developing their own climate neutrality strategies by demonstrating best practices for implementation and advising clients on how key technologies can reduce both GHG emissions and operational costs.

Uplight strives to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy, working with utilities across the country to create efficient, affordable, and sustainable electricity systems. Our advanced customer and energy analytics have helped 80 of the world's foremost utilities to decarbonize their operations. As a certified B Corporation, Uplight has set ambitious climate goals in our attempt to create a more just and sustainable economy—we aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 100 million metric tons while saving consumers \$10 billion in energy costs. Uplight drives decarbonization through four main practices: connecting customers to clean energy supply; increasing conservation in homes and businesses; expanding electrification; and enabling technology that better shapes electricity load to accommodate more renewable energy. In Michigan, Uplight has integrated a suite of utility programs with Consumers Energy, including behavior programs, online marketplaces, and load management programs. These tools are enabling positive customer experiences, higher participation, and better performance. Uplight also delivered 100,000 free smart thermometers to Consumers Energy customers at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has helped Michiganders save on their utility bills while efficiently managing thermostats and energy usage through their load management programs.

At **Worthen Industries**, we are committed to environmentally responsible and sustainable business practices with a strong focus on reducing our carbon footprint. We have installed solar arrays on two of our five facilities and are evaluating installing them on two more, including our plant in Grand Rapids. Energy efficiency is always a key consideration in selecting new and replacement equipment and lighting. In addition, all company cars are required to get 40+ miles per gallon. We also recognize that lowering our impact on climate requires innovation in our product offerings—all of our business units are actively working on sustainability projects that include looking for ways to manufacture products with less waste and energy and developing products with lower carbon footprints, for example by choosing raw materials with recycled or biobased content or by designing them to be recyclable or to improve the recyclability of our customers' products.

In summary, we are taking the urgent threat of climate change seriously and recognize the significant opportunity for Michigan to do the same. The MI Healthy Climate Plan offers an important step towards achieving our longer-term goal of carbon neutrality. Moving toward a carbon-neutral economy will enhance the vitality, competitiveness, and growth of our state, sending a clear signal that Michigan is open for business.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben & Jerry's
Brewery Vivant
Broad Leaf Brewery & Spirits
Crystal Mountain
DSM
EILEEN FISHER
Ford Motor Company
General Mills
General Motors
IKEA Retail U.S.
JLL
Johnson Controls
Siemens
Uplight
Worthen Industries

CC: Members of the Michigan Council on Climate Solutions

For more information, please contact Deana Dennis at ddennis@ceres.org