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July 15, 2026

Mr. David DeChristofaro, P.E., P.S.

Trumbull County Engineer
650 North River Road NW
Warren, Ohio 44483

Dear Engineer DeChristofaro,

On behalf of the Howland Township Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you and your staff for your participation in our recent meeting regarding fiber-optic construction activities in Howland Township. Your willingness to collaborate and share your expertise reflects the importance of local agencies working together to improve public safety and protect critical infrastructure.

As fiber-optic construction continues throughout Trumbull County, communities are experiencing increased impacts from underground utility installation. In Howland Township, several utility strikes have disrupted electricity, water, internet, and other essential services, underscoring the importance of robust construction practices, accurate utility locating, and effective coordination among all parties involved.

The recent collaborative meeting demonstrated that meaningful improvements can be achieved through communication and cooperation. As a result of those discussions, Lumos voluntarily implemented several immediate operational changes, including expanded use of hydrovac and air knife excavation, improved coordination of utility locate requests, enhanced communication among project partners, and increased field supervision.

Given the County Engineer's leadership in infrastructure and public works, we respectfully request your continued support in advocating for enhanced construction standards, improved utility protection practices, and legislative and regulatory reforms that strengthen public safety while allowing broadband expansion to continue responsibly.

Howland Township Government Offices: 205 Niles-Cortland Rd. N.E. Warren, Ohio 44484

Howland Public Works Dept.: 3600 North River Rd. N.E. Warren, Ohio 44484

Howland Police/ Fire Offices: 169 Niles-Cortland Rd. N.E. Warren, Ohio 44484

We also welcome the opportunity to continue collaborating with your office to promote best practices, improve interagency communication, and identify practical solutions to reduce utility strikes and better protect the underground infrastructure serving our residents throughout Trumbull County.

Thank you again for your partnership and for your commitment to protecting the public infrastructure that serves our communities. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts as these important projects move forward.

Respectfully,

Howland Township Board of Trustees

By:

James Pantalone

Township Administrator

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44484**

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