

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Dr. Ma is a member of the professions holding an advanced degree	2
II. Dr. Ma's proposed endeavor is to advance his research in reinforcement learning, control theory, and computer vision, focusing on robust, efficient data-driven methods to enhance design, performance, safety, sustainability, and scalability in intelligent automation systems, including autonomous vehicles, smart power grids, and smart agriculture	2
III. Dr. Ma's proposed endeavor has both substantial merit and national importance	3
A. Dr. Ma's proposed endeavor has substantial merit	3
B. Dr. Ma's proposed endeavor has national importance	5
IV. Dr. Ma is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor	6
A. Education, Skills, and Knowledge	6
B. Record of Success in Related or Similar Efforts and Interest of Relevant Individuals	8
1. Dr. Ma's research has been published in some of the top publication venues in his field	8
2. Researchers from around the world have relied upon Dr. Ma's research to further their own investigations in the field	10
3. At least 10 of Dr. Ma's papers are among the most highly cited in the field of Engineering for their years of publication	12
4. Dr. Ma's research is highly novel and influential in his field	14
a) Reinforcement learning for autonomous vehicle control	14
b) Reinforcement learning for smart power grid control	17
c) Computer vision for smart agriculture applications	18
5. Dr. Ma has been playing leading and active roles in the scientific community	21
C. Progress Toward Achieving the Proposed Endeavor & Plan for Future Activity in the Field	22
V. On balance, it would be beneficial to the United States to waive the requirements of a job offer and thus of a labor certification	23
VI. Conclusion	24