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Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:31 AM  
To: Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>  
Subject: New development on Dhu Varren Road

Hello,

I live on the west side of town, on S. Maple near Pauline. There is a big new development going up on S. Maple across the street from me. I believe it is called Midtown. (A strange name for a development on the west edge of town, but whatever.) I was heartbroken when natural gas lines were extended to the Midtown development last winter. If we are going to actually tackle the climate crisis, we have got to get off of fossil fuels for heating. The easiest place to do that is with new development. Retrofitting established residences and businesses to geothermal and heat pumps will be difficult. But requiring it for new development should be relatively easy. It's low-hanging fruit. That's why it broke my heart to see Midtown hooked up to natural gas lines. This new development will now be using natural gas for decades, at a minimum.

Now I hear there is a new proposed development at Dhu Varren Road and Pontiac Trail. It's not near my home, but the principle is the same: This new development, like all new development, should be fossil-fuel-free. The technology is here, it is good, and it is necessary to combat climate change. We can't simply say we're in favor of combatting climate change in the abstract. The fight must take concrete form. And the easiest way is to require that new development is fossil-fuel-free.

I don't know exactly how much authority the Planning Commission has in a matter such as this. But you should use whatever clout you have to try to make sure that the new development on Dhu Varren Road uses geothermal heating rather than natural gas. Please use your collective imaginations to try to find a way that at the end of the day, this development will be fossil-fuel-free.

Thank you,  
David Gurk  
Ann Arbor, MI

P.S. Actual construction at the Midtown project has not yet begun. They are still pushing around the soil with earth movers. If there is any way to induce the developers to switch their planned heating source from natural gas to geothermal, that would be great. I know it has already been approved, but as I said, construction has not yet begun, so it could still be done. As the saying goes, it's not over until the fat lady sings.