

Ann Arbor Planning Commission
planning@a2gov.org
City Hall
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Subject: Letter of Support for the Proposed SouthTown Project

Dear Members of the Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed multi-family housing project, which aims to construct Ann Arbor's first tall mass timber building and operate as an all-electric structure. As a concerned citizen and advocate for sustainable development, I firmly believe that this project aligns with the city's long-term vision for a greener, more livable community.

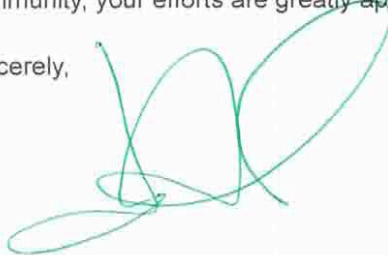
First and foremost, I commend the rezoning efforts undertaken by the project proponents. The proposed development is of an appropriate scale and need, fitting seamlessly within the existing neighborhood fabric and comprehensive plan goals while addressing the growing demand for housing in Ann Arbor. By utilizing mass timber as the primary construction material, the project showcases a commitment to sustainable building practices, which have a significantly lower carbon footprint compared to conventional construction methods. This forward-thinking approach reflects the city's values and will set a precedent for future developments in the area.

The decision to make the building all-electric, without any gas connections, is another commendable aspect of this project. By eliminating fossil fuel usage within the structure, the development will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and safeguarding public health. Embracing an all-electric design not only aligns with the city's sustainability goals but also prepares Ann Arbor for a future powered by renewable energy sources. The project's emphasis on reducing energy consumption and utilizing onsite renewables with clean technologies should be applauded as it demonstrates a commitment to long-term environmental stewardship.

Moreover, I am thrilled to learn that the sustainability features of this project go well beyond the requirements mandated by the zoning or building codes. This demonstrates the dedication of the developers to create a model of sustainable living that exceeds the baseline expectations. By integrating innovative technologies such as energy-efficient appliances, solar panels, stormwater management systems, and green roofs, the project will further reduce its environmental impact while providing a high quality of life for its residents. I believe this development has the potential to become a showcase of sustainable design, inspiring other builders and developers to follow suit.

In conclusion, I urge the Ann Arbor Planning Commission to wholeheartedly support the proposed SouthTown project. By approving this project, you would send a powerful message about Ann Arbor's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable urban development. I trust that the Ann Arbor Planning Commission will carefully evaluate the merits of this project and make a decision that reflects the best interests of our community's long-term well-being. Thank you for dedicating your time to our community, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Douglas Allen
944 N. Main St.