

Ann Arbor Planning Commission / City Council
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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 rezoning and 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 housing and sustainability, I firmly believe that this project aligns with the city's long-term vision for a more accessible, livable, and greener community.

The higher density in close proximity to the campus and 4 bus lines creates housing accessible to alternative, public mobility options that reduce our vehicle miles traveled, reduces the cost burden by not owning a car, and improves the demand on our bus system to further increase the frequency and quality of the routes. In the end the rezoning supports our transit justice, sustainability goals, and housing density in accessible spaces for more residents within our community.

I commend the rezoning efforts undertaken by the project proponents. The proposed development is of an appropriate scale and need, fitting within the existing neighborhood fabric and comprehensive plan goals while addressing the growing demand for housing in Ann Arbor. As we continue to increase our housing supply while reducing vehicle use, the short term rental application makes sense as a transition use while we build community habits towards living without cars. With more development of similar density and proximity to our campus and commercial amenities, we can move forward as a city designed without a reliance on personal vehicles.

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 and City Council 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 while responding to our housing crisis.

Hien Lam

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hien Lam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.