



November 19, 2017

Mayor Taylor and Members of Council:

The Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group is a 3700 member organization representing individuals throughout Washtenaw, Monroe, and Lenawee Counties dedicated to the protection preservation and enjoyment of the natural environment, both locally and globally. My name is James D'Amour, and I am Vice-Chair of the Group.

We urge Council to concur with Planning and Development Services and the City Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation to deny the application by Peters Building Company to build at 2857 Packard Road.

As you review the report, you should note that the City has adopted its Urban and Community Forest Management Plan three years ago, which recommends residential areas strive to reach a target canopy cover of 60%. This project would remove burr oak trees older than the City of Ann Arbor itself!

We are certain the developer will pressure the city to build regardless of conservative interpretations of city ordinances and goals here. We recognize this pressure in nearly every development that appears before you. That being said, this is a clear, incontrovertible test of whether we live to our values in a city we call "Tree Town". Building units each above \$200,000 and eliminating virtually all natural features on site is neither meeting the city's sustainability goals nor providing affordable housing.

We have to do better than this. It is time to redouble our efforts in protecting our natural features that makes Ann Arbor—Tree Town if you will, livable for all of our residents.

Deny this project.

Thanks for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

James D'Amour
Vice-Chair, Executive Committee
Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group, Michigan Chapter