

October 23, 2013

John Fitzgerald
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

RE: Boston Garden Development Project

Dear John,

I am a resident of Boston and I fully support the proposed development at 80 Causeway Street. The Boston Garden project is a symbol of the future of development in Boston, and a project that is long overdue. I urge the city to approve this project and its associated 121A zoning relief and tax deal as soon as possible.

As a former resident of the North End, and a current resident of the Back Bay, I believe this project will be a win for the city, the state, and all of the surrounding communities. One of the reasons I left the North End was to be closer to the exact type of uses that this development is proposing to provide (in particular, a grocery store). Mixed use, transit oriented development is the preeminent and responsible way to create the (albeit cliché) live-work-play areas that my generation so desires. The combination of residential, hotel, loft office, and entertainment venues at this location will create a draw for the future workforce and employment centers of the City of Boston.

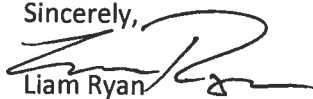
The developer's wish to increase the as of right height of the residential tower is based on sound and environmentally conscious principles. Height not only allows the addition of density, it creates a landmark/point of orientation for people traveling to and within the city, and it provides residents with unparalleled views of Boston's unique urban form. Moreover, the additional height is visible mainly from a distance – the additional two hundred feet will be barely noticeable to the naked eye at street level. Given the site's location at the city edge, I do not feel that this height is out of place in the least.

The 121A tax deal requested by the developers is reasonable, and it would behoove the city to grant it. The first phase will contain numerous public benefits – from a grocery store to a cinema, to a wonderful civic space, most of which provide little if any return to the developer. Boston Properties and Delaware North Companies have designed this project holistically, and have selected uses that will make a great place. To start this project now will require some tax certainty, but the immediate and future tax benefits to the city will certainly be greater than the current taxes generated by the parking lot. Moreover, in my view the city should incentivize these two companies to continue to invest in Boston - there are certainly easier places to develop around the world. These are two committed and capable companies that have been impeccable citizens of city and I am certain this project will be no different.

I have reviewed the expanded PNF submitted on September 6, 2013. I am confident that this project will be a tremendous asset to our city, and will be a key component in keeping Boston competitive.

Please register my full support of this project.

Sincerely,


Liam Ryan
Back Bay