Dear Mr. Cohen,

As a Boston resident, I have been paying particular attention to the 1000 Boylston project.  I live in the Back Bay area, and find myself regularly going to the Symphony and Fenway neighborhoods.  The pit and surrounding dead zone created by the Pike unfortunately serves as a physical and spiritual wall separating these neighborhoods.  The city deserves better.

I strongly support the development of 1000 Boylston.  We have an opportunity to create a bridge linking neighborhoods while creating an enjoyable, clean and vibrant street-level experience.  I am sensitive to shadow and traffic concerns, but the status quo protects almost never unused space and a traffic pattern that is not pedestrian friendly.  From my own perspective, I know finishing the development to create a continuous, family-friendly urban corridor will make walking the default way to get from the Back Bay to the vibrant areas of Berklee College and beyond.

I’m also enthusiastic to see a local developer that is a strong member of the Boston community willing to tackle 1000 Boylston.  History has taught us that turnpike-air-rights development is really hard, and this particular site seems especially challenging.  Weiner Ventures, with a proven track record of successfully tackling difficult projects and a long-term commitment to responsibly building in Boston, can credibly take on such a task.

Should this project succeed, it would be a strong symbol of smart community planning and support, not just for development in the Back Bay, but for air rights development in the City of Boston overall.  I hope this project moves forward and gets built.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel N. Saul