



March 5, 2021

To Representatives of the City of Madison and Dane County:

The Affordable Housing Action Alliance (AHAA) is writing to express its support for the Save the Farm initiative. While local municipalities often articulate regional-level affordable housing visions, rarely do opportunities exist to implement such goals at this scale. The listing of 65 acres of infill land, less than a half mile from the City's largest grocery store and an eighth of a mile from the East Transfer Point, presents a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact for one of the most pressing issues facing our society today – affordable housing. Paired with millions of dollars raised by hundreds of local community members, this proposal represents a less expensive way to address long held priorities of the City and County.

As AHAA members we support the following goals which are in alignment of the mission of Save the Farm:

- The creation of *permanent* affordable housing in all forms. This includes homeownership, rental, cooperative ownership and others.
- Supportive housing for individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness, households with disabilities, and those in other vulnerable populations.
- The creation of programs to build ongoing generational wealth for marginalized communities of color.
- The direct involvement of school systems in the planning, development, implementation, and operation of housing and urban agriculture programs. This would allow schools, children and youth to offer valuable input from their perspective, impacting solutions where they live.
- Meaningful participation, engagement and ownership by all directly impacted community members—not just the wealthy and well-connected business class.

This initiative is a way for the City of Madison and Dane County to continue to increase its affordable housing stock in an innovative and holistic way. Save the Farm provides the opportunity to align the values Madison often espouses with action. If the land is sold to a for-profit developer, there will be no guarantee of housing affordability and a strong possibility that market forces will further gentrify a working-class neighborhood and widen the equity gap for marginalized communities of color. We encourage you to act boldly during this short window opportunity and support this initiative. We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Thank you,

Affordable Housing Action Alliance