

April 5, 2021

Chela O'Connor, President
Save the Farm

Dear Ms. O'Connor,

The Four Lakes Group of the Sierra Club is pleased to support the Save the Farm's overall goals for the Voit Farm property. We are supportive of urban infill that provides:

- access to nearby employment opportunities,
- accessible active and public transportation,
- affordable housing,
- continued community engagement and enhancement,
- low energy use buildings,
- clean, renewable energy, and
- green spaces for urban farming, recreation and green infrastructure

Madison benefits from developments that integrate the goals of diversity and sustainability and supports the needs of the local community residents such as this project offers.

As an open space on Madison's northeast side surrounded by development, the Voit Farm is a prime area for urban infill. The owner's reticence to sell the land to the city, but their willingness to consider other proposals provides added rationale to the Save the Farm proposal as a means of providing beneficial urban development at this highly desirable location.

Currently, the area benefits from excellent access to transit with a major affordable grocery store and post office nearby. The open space and areas needed for water retention could also provide green space for urban gardening and recreation purposes – all key elements in providing equity for residents of this area.

We are pleased to see the thoughtful grassroots community involvement early in the process by local people who have knowledge of the area and are taking the needs of the community into account in the planning and development. We believe the proposed directions and ideas for the Voit Farm by Save the Farm are aligned with priorities the Four Lakes Group supports and Madison has set.

We look forward to continued discussion regarding development of this area, and to continuing to provide input as further plans and specifics are proposed for this area.

Sincerely,



Mary Reames
Four Lakes Group Co-chairs



Ronda Conner