



Fayette Alliance

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LFUCG Division of Planning
200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

March 25, 2016

Dear Board of Adjustment Members,

My name is Don Robinson and I am writing this letter on behalf of Fayette Alliance.

In furtherance of our mission to grow our city and promote our farms in Lexington, we are here to support the Blue Grass Stockyards' application for a conditional use permit to construct and operate an Agricultural Market and a variance to reduce the required setback distance from a residence on another property.

We applaud Blue Grass Stockyards for creating a site development plan that not only adheres to quality design but also sets the standard for environmental stewardship for stockyards across the country.

Blue Grass Stockyards has a proven track record of environmental stewardship. At its previous site on Lisle Ave, the Blue Grass Stockyards was located right on the banks of Town Branch Stream. Despite challenges presented by the 100-year-old facility and its close proximity to our city's founding waterway, Blue Grass Stockyards complied with all local and state ground and stormwater requirements. Not once, did the site have a water quality violation.¹

We are confident that Blue Grass Stockyards will create a facility that is state-of-the-art in its use of green technology and environmental safeguards and our support rests, in part, on the expectation that the level of environmental stewardship shown at the prior site will continue at the new facility.

Some of the measures they plan to take to safeguard their surrounding environment include:

1. They have chosen a building site outside of the Royal Springs Aquifer, minimizing the impact their facility will have on the environmentally sensitive areas of their property.

¹ "Operational Plan: Ironworks Farm LLC, Blue Grass Regional Stockyards." Feb. 2016: 3.



2. Air Quality issues and odor will be minimized by housing all animals under a single roof and using a dry bedding system that reduces the moisture content of animal waste.²

It is also important to note the economic benefits Blue Grass Stockyards brings to Lexington-Fayette County. In 2015, the Lexington site of Blue Grass Stockyards sold approximately 106,000 animals for a total of \$204 million gross sales receipts.³

Blue Grass Stockyards is to the cattle industry what Keeneland and Fasig Tipton are to our Equine Industry. The USDA named the Lexington Market as a primary point of price discovery, meaning that the Stockyard, right here in Lexington, sets the price of cattle across the entire Eastern Seaboard.⁴

Continuing to have Blue Grass Stockyards located in Fayette County is key to the economic health of our signature Agricultural Industry and a testament to quality of livestock that is raised right here in the Bluegrass.

With this in mind, we respectfully request that you grant the Blue Grass Stockyards' application for a conditional use permit to construct and operate an Agricultural Market and a variance to reduce the required setback distance from a residence on another property.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Robinson
Acting Executive Director
Chairman of the Board
Fayette Alliance

² Ibid. 4-5.

³ "Lexington: Blue Grass Stockyards to Rebuild at I-75 and Ironworks Pike." *The Lane Report*. Mar. 2016: 14.

⁴ Akers, Jim. *Bluegrass Stockyards: Continuing the Tradition*. Narrated Power Point. 24 Mar. 2016.