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October 8th, 2013

LFUCG Urban County Council
Government Center
200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Board Members

Jimmy Bell
Price Bell, Jr.
Todd Clark
Susan Enlow
Greg Goodman
Gay Haggin VanMeter
Dave Harper
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Barry Holmes
Patrick McGee
John Phillips
Tom Poskin
Sam Razor
Walt Robertson
Don Robinson
Sasha Sanan
David Switzer
Jack van Nagell
Griffin VanMeter
Holly Wiedemann
Anthony Wright

Community Partners

Bluegrass Conservancy
Dudley's on Short
FCNC
KY Horse Park

Sustainers

Josephine Abercrombie
Helen Alexander
Andover Management Group
Ian Banwell
Antony Beck
Gary Biszantz
Darley
Fayette Co. Farm Bureau
David & Philippa Fogg
Greg Goodman
Dave Harper
John Hendrickson
Sally Humphrey
Keeneland Association
KTA
Murray & Teri Kessler
Lane's End Farm
Langley Properties Co.
Lisa Lourie
Deirdre Lyons
Richard & Sue Ann Masson
Ann McBrayer
Don Robinson
Bill Shively
Tom VanMeter
Derek Vaughan
Fra Vaughan
Brian & Lori Wood
Misdee Wrigley Miller
Executive Director
Knox van Nagell, J.D.

Dear Vice Mayor Gorton and Council members,

My name is Knox van Nagell, and I am writing this letter on behalf of The Fayette Alliance.

Founded in 2006, The Fayette Alliance is a coalition of citizens dedicated to achieving sustainable growth in Lexington-Fayette County through land use advocacy, education, and promotion.

The Fayette Alliance believes that preserving our unique and productive Bluegrass farmland, advancing innovative development, and improving our infrastructure are essential to our collective success in Lexington.

Through our efforts at government and beyond, Lexington can become the model for sustainable growth, by connecting and balancing its vibrant city with its unique and productive Bluegrass farmland.

In furtherance of our countywide mission, Fayette Alliance respectfully requests that you allocate \$500,000 of the remaining \$1.7 million Build America Bond to performing a hydrology study for the Town Branch Watershed in downtown Lexington.

If completed, the hydrology study will assess floodplain levels and other water-flow characteristics of an 8.6 square-mile study area in our urban core—reaching from the Distillery District and Rupp Arena to the West, Transylvania and BCTCS to the North, Midland Avenue to the East, and the University of Kentucky to the South. For more details please see the enclosed map.

Such a hydrology study will provide essential information on how Town Branch Stream behaves during wet and dry weather events—establishing current data on its floodplain; and how both new and old buildings throughout downtown interact with it.

With this analysis, the city of Lexington will have a baseline assessment of the Town Branch watershed—which will inform and facilitate wide-range investment in our urban core.



Just as LFUCG has invested in infrastructure throughout other parts of the city to promote growth—such as roads, sewers, schools, and emergency services—a broad-based hydrology study of the Town Branch Stream will establish the green infrastructure necessary for development downtown.

According to the Destination 2040 project, and even more recent polls and Comprehensive Plan discussions, the vast majority of Lexingtonians want to sustainably “grow up, not out” for the foreseeable future. To achieve this goal, our community must invest in studies and infrastructure needed to make this vision a reality. A hydrology study for downtown Lexington is a prime example of such an investment.

Additionally, in light of Lexington’s EPA Consent Decree and our ongoing water quality programs, identifying green infrastructure and understanding stream conditions in our watersheds—from the suburbs to the Distillery District—is of utmost importance in the community. If grant money is available, government should lead such an effort promote the healthy and efficient operation of our built and natural environment. It is a matter of public welfare and safety.

For these reasons, Fayette Alliance asks that you allocate \$500,000 of the \$1.7 Build America Bond to a hydrology study of downtown Lexington.

As to the remaining \$1.2 million, we will not opine on how those resources are specifically spent in the Distillery District. As a countywide stakeholder group, Fayette Alliance only takes positions on land-use issues that have countywide, legal implications.

While we strongly support a comprehensive trail network throughout Fayette County, the question of how the remaining \$1.2 million will be invested in the Distillery District—and the Town Branch Trail in particular— is a property-specific matter that will require study and discussion between the Council and the District’s interested parties.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and dedication to growing our city and promoting our farms in Lexington-Fayette County. Please call me anytime on my cell phone at 859-421-1636 if I can ever be of assistance.

All my best-

Knox van Nagell, J.D.

cc: Hon. Jim Gray, Mayor; Dr. Derek Paulsen, Commissioner of Planning