

Hoffman, Jeanne

From: Delora Newton [dnewton@greatermadisonchamber.com]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 4:06 PM
To: All Alders
Cc: Hoffman, Jeanne; Zavos, Nicholas; Olver, Aaron; Mikolajewski, Matthew; Zach Brandon; Klittle
Subject: Chamber Board maintains opposition to energy benchmarking ordinance

Dear Alders,

The Greater Madison Chamber Board of Directors opposes the substitute version of the energy benchmarking ordinance introduced late last week.

We appreciate Alder Ahren's attempt to address some concerns voiced by the business community about the ordinance. However, the substitute version falls short on needed changes and clarity. The Chamber Board reaffirms its support of a voluntary public-private partnership to promote educational awareness of the value of energy benchmarking and sustainable energy practices. This pathway would bring all perspectives to the table to thoroughly discuss the best way to achieve desired participation and results.

Although the substitute ordinance calls for creation of an ad hoc committee which includes business representation, it is a less effective option. The prescribed committee would be limited in its discussion and ability to make recommendations because the outcome will have been pre-determined. A recent, similar example is the city's failed inclusionary zoning policy. Housing providers and affordable housing advocates were too constrained by the city's adopted policy to find workable solutions during the implementation phase.

In conclusion, the substitute amendment is not acceptable even with a one-year delay in implementation. We encourage you to place this ordinance on file.

Sincerely,

Delora

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