

Klawiter, Cristine

Subject: FW: Smart Growth's Concerns about Report from Task Force on Farmland Preservation

From: Bill Connors

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 4:14 PM

To: EDC <EDC@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Smart Growth's Concerns about Report from Task Force on Farmland Preservation

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Economic Development Committee:

I am writing to you regarding the report from the Task Force on Farmland Preservation, Legistar 77441, which is item 2 on the agenda for your meeting on Wednesday, May 17. Please see my May 10 letter to the task force, which is part of the record under Legistar 77441.

When the task force's report comes to the Common Council on June 6, the resolution regarding the report will say that the Common Council adopts the report. Please note that according to Madison's ordinances, when the Common Council adopts a report, it merely acknowledges that it has received the report and is not adopting any of the recommendations in the report.

If your committee passes a motion regarding the task force's report, I urge you **NOT** to include any language in the motion recommending that the Common Council go further and adopt or implement the recommendations in the report.

As noted in my earlier letter to the task force, the following recommendation in the task force's report is particularly problematic:

"Evaluate land added to the city through recent annexation and anticipated future annexation for potential urban agriculture preservation/protection"


This recommendation is vague and will invite wasteful controversy each time a developer requests rezoning and approval of a plat for a new residential subdivision on land recently annexed or annexed in the future into the city. Madison needs more housing, not more obstruction to housing.

I urge you to include in your motion an expression of concern from the Economic Development Committee to the Common Council about this vague, controversy-creating recommendation.

In addition, preserving farmland within the Madison city limits will not result in preservation of farmland in Dane County as a whole. For each acre of farmland preserved within the city, at least one acre of farmland elsewhere in the county be developed, usually for housing, because farmland preservation in Madison will not decrease the demand for more housing in the Madison area as a result of steadily growing population. Pushing more housing development farther out into the county will result in increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

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