

From: [ALEXAVIER SULEYMAN SUDEMIR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#); [Bennett, Juliana](#)
Subject: Support for Building Height Increase
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023 10:14:24 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Xavier Sudemir and I am a sophomore at UW-Madison living at The James located at 432 W. Gorham Street. I am emailing in support of increasing height limits around the campus area.

When I arrived on campus last year, I was told by a friend that I needed to find a lease to sign as early as October if I wanted to find something that was affordable, comfortable, and in a good location. Unfortunately, I did not heed this advice. As everyone around me scrambled to sign a lease, I waited, confident that I'd be able to find something later in the year. I didn't want to rush into any leasing agreements considering I hardly knew the people I had met on campus, and I certainly wasn't ready to make a judgment on whether or not I could live with them for a year.

I waited and waited until eventually, it was February and available leases were scarce. I toured two studio apartments; one was in an old frat house. As you can imagine, it was incredibly dirty. It looked as though it hadn't been cleaned in years. Bathrooms were communal and the stalls didn't have doors. The place was poorly lit, and the ceilings were low enough that could hit your head if you weren't careful. The landlord was asking \$700 a month. The second place I visited was nice enough but small and far from campus. They asked about \$900 for rent for a studio apartment that was a 25-minute walk from most academic buildings. I knew that wasn't somewhere I wanted to live when it was cold and snowy, and I would have to be at class by 9:00 in the morning.

My parents helped me find The James and urged me to sign a lease before it was too late. I'm paying \$964 monthly (not including utilities) and have one roommate and two suitemates. My room is approximately the same size as my dorm last year, which is to say it's quite small. Move-in was August 26th, yet I had to pay full rent for the month (in addition to the security deposit). The James also requires residents to be moved out by July 31st unless they plan on renewing their lease. To The James's credit, the amenities are great, including the rooftop pool and indoor gym. However, the terms of my lease are not very tenant-friendly, with tons of fees and other hidden costs. I wouldn't have chosen to live here if it weren't for the fact that other options were practically non-existent.

I'm telling you this to give you a perspective on the student housing situation here in Madison.

I'm fortunate to be able to afford this place, even if it's pretty costly. However, I know there are other students on campus who wouldn't be able to afford this place and would have to live in one of the many awful, overpriced places around campus. I urge the planning commission to raise building height limits to allow the development of more affordable places to live on campus. Madison suffers from incredibly high housing demand and has a short supply, which forces many students into a choice between overpriced or unlivable housing.

To address the other side of the issue, I can understand the importance of a skyline to a city. Sometimes I'll go for a walk on Bascom Hill at night and I'm disappointed that there's no clear view of the capitol building from the top. It's an iconic building that I've loved since my 4th-grade tour of the capitol. But now I've grown up, and I need somewhere to live. The proposed changes lie outside of the 1-mile radius around the capitol, but I would also like to voice support for larger housing projects around the Johnson St. area. These would provide affordable housing options for those who need it, without compromising quality, safety, or location. I would argue that those who prioritize the protection of the city skyline are not college students. They don't have to balance cost, safety, quality, and proximity to campus to the same degree as vulnerable college students do when they sign a lease. They can afford to say the skyline is their top concern. Many of the students who are trying to build their futures here don't have the same luxury.

I know that at the pace that local governments and construction projects move, I will likely be gone by the time these projects are completed. But I know that there will be more students like me in the future, too late to sign a good lease, losers of the game that is Madison's housing market. While I was writing this, I was sent an Instagram post by @wiscochicks that includes various "hot takes" sent in from students. One of them is "The James sucks," and I'd have to agree. I won't be living here next year, and none of my suitemates will either. I'd imagine the turnover rate here is quite high. The fact of the matter is that these landlords know that they can offer incredibly overpriced housing and because students are desperate, they'll begrudgingly take whatever they can get. Then these students graduate, move on, and a new set of students takes their place, and the cycle begins again.

As a political science major, I'd love to live here in Madison someday. It's a hub for so many amazing job opportunities. But as it stands, I can't afford to put down roots here after college. These housing developments are critical to support the city's development and its future prosperity. If you build it, they will come (and stay).

P.S. - Thanks to MGR for making an appearance in my public policy class today. Keep up the good work!

Thank you for your time,
Xavier Sudemir

UW-Madison Sophomore

From: [Tahoe Fiala](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: In Favor of Height Limit Increase
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:17:39 PM

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Dear Madison City Council,

Hi my name is Tahoe and I'm a doctoral student in UW Madison's Chemistry program. I've been living in Madison for four years already and I have another three to go. I'm currently living in 911 E Johnson St, a place that is quite far from Chemistry, as this is what I am able to afford on my fixed income.

I am writing you to support the proposal to increase the height limits around the UW Madison campus because there is a need for more and for more affordable student housing. Raising the height limits is a great action the city can take because it allows for more density in housing projects. Density is important for both growing a city and building community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote in favor of increasing height limits in the campus neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Tahoe

Best Regards,

Tahoe Fiala ([he/him](#)), M.S.
Ph.D. Candidate
[Yoon Laboratory](#)
Department of Chemistry
University of Wisconsin, Madison
608-422-3319 | tfiala@wisc.edu

From: [Joe Schwarz](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Don't raise the height limit
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023 7:42:04 AM

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I think the height limit should stay the same. If people who own land in rural areas have height limits on their houses and outbuildings then I think the city's skyline and the Capitol should remain.

Thanks,
Joe Schwarz
Schwarz Homes Inc.
608-669-7225

From: [Adam Donahue](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Building Height Limits
Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 1:39:38 AM

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Hi, my name is Adam Donahue, and I live at 380 W Washington Ave, or Metropolitan Place Apartments. I'm writing to express my support for increasing the height limits around the UW-Madison campus.

We need affordable student housing now more than ever as rent continues to go up. Raising the height limit will get us there by allowing more density in housing developments in accessible and connected locations.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you vote in favor of increasing height limits in the campus neighborhood.

Adam

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [All Alders] Affordable Housing
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:37:44 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)

District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119

[My Blog](#)

From: qhinaus13@gmail.com <qhinaus13@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:40 AM

To: All Alders

Subject: [All Alders] Affordable Housing

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Quinn Hinaus

Address: 947 Spaight St, Madison, WI 53703

Email: qhinaus13@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Hello,

I'm Quinn and I've lived in Madison for the past four years and love that I get to call this city home.

I am writing in support of increasing the height limits around the UW Madison campus.

I believe we need more access to affordable housing as it is a basic human right. Students are especially in need as they are balancing many responsibilities on top of paying for school as they chase their dreams to make their impact and improvement in this world. Increased access to affordable housing would provide a firm and safe base to allow students to better focus on their studies to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Raising the height limits would do exactly that by increasing the density in housing projects. Please vote in favor of increasing height limits and helping the housing crisis.

Best,

Quinn Hinaus

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [All Alders] Building height
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:36:06 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)
District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119
[My Blog](#)

From: lbautista2@wisc.edu <lbautista2@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:28 AM
To: All Alders
Subject: [All Alders] Building height

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Liana Bautista
Address: 405 n Henry st, Madison, WI 53715
Phone: 414 405-7908
Email: lbautista2@wisc.edu

Would you like us to contact you? No, do not contact me

Message:

Who cares if you get a little blocked view when students are homeless? Please consider the students and invest your energy into affordable housing for the people who live in these densely packed areas.

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [All Alders] Height Limit
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:33:43 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)
District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119
[My Blog](#)

From: ardonahue@wisc.edu <ardonahue@wisc.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 8:09 PM
To: All Alders
Subject: [All Alders] Height Limit

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Adam Donahue
Address: 380 W Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 715-660-6518
Email: ardonahue@wisc.edu

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

We are undergoing a housing crisis. Rent continues to increase. We need to prioritize affordable housing in accessible and connected neighborhoods by increasing the height limit to allow for more dense housing.

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [All Alders] Increased Building Height Limits
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:30:27 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)

District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119

[My Blog](#)

From: 9.nathan.schilling@gmail.com <9.nathan.schilling@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:58 PM

To: All Alders

Subject: [All Alders] Increased Building Height Limits

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Nathan Schilling

Address: 202 N Hamilton St. #1, Madison , WI 53703

Phone: 608-635-6270

Email: 9.nathan.schilling@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Hi,

My name is Nathan Schilling. I live on North Pinckney St. I am writing to support increased height limits around the UW campus. More affordable housing is needed in the downtown area, and the increased height limits would allow for more affordable units. This would allow for less people in Madison to be homeless. I would love to see these height limits accompanied by public or social housing or a requirement for at least 30% of the units to be affordable housing. Only by building units in the price range where there is a deficit of housing and a risk of homeless can we begin to alleviate the housing issues in Madison. 10% affordable housing is not enough, as it will allow the luxury and middle income housing to outpace the deficit of housing for low income people. I would also like to see office spaces in the downtown area that are vacant to be rezoned for affordable high rise housing. Density is key to solving our ecological crisis low density housing uses much more energy and causes more pollution than high density housing. If you care about the people of Madison or the environment of our great state, I strongly encourage you to help build high-density, affordable housing.

Thank you

Nathan Schilling

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [All Alders] Madison Building Height Limit
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:34:12 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)

District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119

[My Blog](#)

From: Wahelming@gmail.com <Wahelming@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 5:40 PM

To: All Alders

Subject: [All Alders] Madison Building Height Limit

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Wyn Helming

Address: 1606 Fordem Avenue #306, Madison, WI 53704

Email: Wahelming@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Please get rid of the pointless building height limit in Madison. I remember when i first moved here I thought it was so cool to have a height limit on buildings. It allowed you to see the Capitol from so many places. Over the 6 years I have lived in Madison, I see that being the only reason to keep the height limit. That it's cool. The good that removing the height limit would do is far reaching! You can contact me by email, but it is not necessary.

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [All Alders] Please scrap outdated height limits
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:37:04 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)
District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119
[My Blog](#)

From: tessaprice0@gmail.com <tessaprice0@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 8:33 AM
To: All Alders
Subject: [All Alders] Please scrap outdated height limits

Recipient: All Alders

Name: Tessa Price
Address: 318 Amoth Ct, Madison, WI 53704
Email: tessaprice0@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

We the people need places to live! We all deserve to live here. Help the working and middle classes thrive by increasing density. Remove height limits and demand affordable housing.

From: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Fw: [D8] Building Heights
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:36:30 PM

MGR Govindarajan (*he/him/his*)

District 8 Alder | (608) 509-9119

[My Blog](#)

From: jackkristian@gmail.com <jackkristian@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 9:52 AM

To: Govindarajan, MGR

Subject: [D8] Building Heights

Recipient: District 8, MGR Govindarajan

Name: Jack Rogers

Address: 222 E Lakelawn, Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-461-1327

Email: jackkristian@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes, by email

Message:

Voicing my support to raise the height limit on buildings in the campus area to accommodate more affordable units.

From: [WANWA OMOT](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Increasing Building Height Limits
Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:00:54 AM

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Hello,

My name is Wanwa Omot, a student at UW Madison. I live on West Johnson Street in Downtown Madison. I'm writing to express my deep support for increasing height limits of residential buildings around the UW-Madison campus area.

We have a housing shortage, and it is getting exponentially worse. There are also many unhoused students. I'm not saying that to scare y'all, but I'm saying it because it's true. It would be ideal and necessary for our city council to accommodate for students, staff, and faculty of one of the largest employers in the state of Wisconsin. So long as this University is existing, this must be solved. I came here from Eagan, MN (about 4 hours away). I love Madison, WI. But, I want to stay here. It's not possible for me to stay here post-graduation or even right now if the city council isn't taking the necessary steps needed to address this issue. However, I didn't come here to worry about my housing more than my academics. The University saw me as a person who can excel in this institution. But if you're telling me the party's over and this council is just gonna sit there; wait for the worst to happen; and continuously betray and fail to serve a demographic that will not go away (in fact will only keep increasing), then people aren't gonna want to live here. I certainly won't.

It's quite the achievement to say that Madison, WI is home to the largest employer in the city. The flagship university of Wisconsin is in the same exact city we want to improve. Increasing building height limits will be an important step towards solving the housing crisis. An increase in height limits means more density for housing projects, which means more units in apartments, more rooms in houses, etc. All of the effects will essentially lead to more housing for students.

For me, staying in Madison is a possibility, but not one I'm excited to think about. Former and current students are thinking about the decision about whether to stay in their beloved college town, or move away to other neighboring states or even across the country. They have the opportunity to either contribute to amazing companies and employers from Wisconsin like American Family Insurance, Epic, and the UW System; or take their 4+ years of research, academic excellence, leadership skills, and personal growth, and move to another place that will accommodate them. It would be foolish to lose the students who spent years and thousands of dollars to foster skills and hone in on their academics in Madison, just to contribute to denying them their right to live in the city that they've known for years.

The City Council has a decision to make as well. They can either vote in favor or against increasing the building height limits. We are watching. This decision to increase building height limits will trickle down into the wellbeing of Madison, Wisconsin and everyone who does and wishes to call this city home. Thank you, I hope you vote in favor of increasing height limits.

Best,

Wanwa Omot
she/her/hers
Undergraduate

College of Letters & Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison '25
omot@wisc.edu

From: [KIERA JOY FOURNIER](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Support for Increased Building Height
Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023 6:01:19 PM

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Hi my name is Kiera Fournier and I live on University Ave. I am writing to support increasing the height limits around the UW-Madison campus.

I believe we need more student housing because of housing prices are too high for students and public transportation and parking isn't reliable enough to live far from campus. Raising the height limits achieves this goal by allowing more density in housing projects.

Thank you and I hope you vote in favor of increasing height limits in the campus neighborhood.

From: [MARTIN ADAM DOMARADZKI](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Support For Increasing Building Height Limits In District 8
Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:15:57 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Martin Domaradzki and I live at 642 State Street in Madison. I am writing to support increasing height limits around the UW-Madison campus.

I believe we need more student housing because the rate at which rental prices are increasing is absurd. The university continues to admit more and more students every year and the surrounding city simply must be developed to accommodate all of these students. Raising the height limit achieves this goal by allowing more density in housing projects, which increases the amount of housing available and lowers prices. I do not believe that this is even a choice, it is something that must happen to keep the money from scholarships and financial aid from being funneled into the pockets of scalping landlords.

Thank you, and I implore you to vote in favor of increasing height limits in the campus neighborhood.

Martin Domaradzki

From: [Emily Valentine](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Support for Increasing Building Height Limits
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:46:00 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Emily Valentine and I live on Regent Street. I am writing to support increasing the height limits around the UW-Madison campus. I believe we need more student housing because the university's student population continues to grow while available housing remains relatively stagnant. Students are having to live further and further away from campus, impeding in attendance and learning. Raising the height limit achieves this goal by allowing more density in housing projects.

Thank you, and I hope you vote in favor of increasing height limits in the Campus neighborhood.

Emily Valentine (she/her)
CLEAN: Campus & Systems Committee
ASM Sustainability: Campaign Lead for ReWild
SlowFood: Kitchen Manager

From: [Ameya Baxi](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Govindarajan, MGR](#)
Subject: Supporting Increasing Building Height Limits in Madison
Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023 4:12:23 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Ameya Baxi and I live at 633 Langdon St. I am writing to support increasing the building height limits around the UW-Madison campus.

Increased height limits would make room for more student housing, which there is a shortage of around campus, and allow for higher density housing projects.

Please vote in favor of increasing building height limits in the campus neighborhood. Thank you.