

October 17, 2022

Dear City Council Member:

This letter is to express our strong support for the proposed rezoning by Owen Sound Glassworks Cooperative Housing of 46 acres of 1915 26th Street East, Owen Sound N4K 5N3.

MacLean is like many local employers; we are struggling to hire staff and when we can, they struggle to find affordable housing within a reasonable commute. The cost of gas has made travelling for work more challenging and a few people have left the company simply because the cost of commuting is too much. Our staff earn a good income with full benefits but the price of many houses is out of reach for most and good rental properties are hard to come by. MacLean is very interested in affordable housing for our staff and we see this as a key factor in stabilizing our workforce. We are able to attract candidates from out of town but when they look to relocate the cost in the area is prohibitive.

We are confident that Glassworks' proposed rezoning from Industrial to mixed-use residential will increase the density and the inventory of attainable workforce housing which is a necessary component of our continued success.

Glassworks' proposed project represents a positive redevelopment opportunity in the city and provides for a mix of housing types that are very much in demand. This project maximizes the benefit from the land available and provides housing near our plant. The location of the property supports the use of active transportation and transit, while increasing the inventory of affordable housing in the form of accessory apartments, semi-detached, duplex, townhouse, and low-rise apartments, all housing that is desired by our employees.

The location is perfect. It's within walking distance and active transportation to our plant, the hospital, retail, schools and recreation. All of this means a larger customer base for local businesses and a shorter commuting distance for our employees. Increasing the inventory of attractive, affordable new housing close to the hospital, will help to distinguish our city when recruiting and retaining the healthcare professionals we need.

In our eyes this project checks all the boxes to positively contribute to the community. We strongly urge you to vote yes on this project; it is the kind of rezoning development that is good for the neighborhood and good for the local economy. Our community desperately needs this type of affordable housing, it's model that has been proven to be successful in many other communities and is sorely needed here.

Sincerely,



Ed Hawton
Plant Manager

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