



To whom it may concern,

April 24 2021

In 2018, Fossil Free Fredericksburg was created by a group of local residents who joined together to educate our community on the environmental impact of fossil fuel use and to encourage city council to pass a resolution to transition away from fossil fuels to alternative energy. Downtown Greens has been a trusted partner in our community work, even tabling at the very first Solutions to Climate Change Conference we organized at the University of Mary Washington in March 2019. Their positive impact on Fredericksburg has led us to write this letter in support of the EDA accepting DTGs bid for the Braehead Farm area.

As you are aware, Downtown Green has been in existence for the past 25 years. They have educated many of our children about sustainable farming practices and provided residents with open spaces for recreation. Studies have shown that open spaces have a protective effect on our mental well-being; they certainly help to make our community more livable and distinguish Fredericksburg a place of charm and comfort in an ever-expanding sea of pavement stretching down from Washington, DC. Although these measures do not directly correlate to a financial revenue for the city, they contribute to what makes Fredericksburg special and our desire to call it home.

We commend the EDA's decision to dedicate a large portion of their 2020 budget to workforce development. This goal parallels that of Downtown Greens. By providing educational opportunities to our residents, which lead to living wage jobs, and open spaces for all to enjoy DTG's bid would be beneficial for decades to come.

On behalf of all 400 + members we encourage you to accept DTG's bid for the land and help keep Fredericksburg special.

Thank you for your time,

Fossil Free Fredericksburg