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SENATE



PATRICIA A. FAHY
SENATOR, 46TH DISTRICT

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February 26, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor, New York State
NYS Capitol
Albany, NY 12208

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write to convey our support for the inclusion of **mixed-use commercial, retail, and residential development on the Harriman State Office Campus as part of the state's \$1.7 billion Wadsworth Laboratory consolidation investment**. As proposed in [S.1613 Fahy/A.5918 Romero/McDonald](#), 7 acres of the 27-acre Wadsworth Laboratory property would be designated for mixed-use commercial, retail, or residential development.

Secondly, the legislation requires the creation of a master plan for the full redevelopment of the underutilized Harriman Campus to maximize the use of what may be considered the 'Uptown Parking Lot District'. This is the state's largest public investment in Albany since the 1960s. Capitalizing on this would help reconnect the Harriman Campus to the surrounding community and neighborhoods. Ensuring that we are maximizing space for mixed-used development on the Harriman Campus as part of this \$1.7 billion investment would allow the City of Albany and Capital Region to harness the full economic multiplier effect of the Wadsworth Laboratory.

In 2021, a coalition of elected officials worked with your office and applauded your efforts to ultimately [retain the Wadsworth Laboratory](#) here in Albany. Since that time, we have met numerous times with your office and relevant state agencies to urge a 21st Century-economic development design on the Harriman Campus, including a more holistic approach, as indicated in the correspondence below:

- A [September 2021 letter](#) urged the convening of a Harriman Campus working group to identify opportunities to transform and redevelop this state-owned land, including examining parts of the 'ring roads' to repurpose additional acreage.
- A [February 2022 letter](#) conveyed concerns related to the addition of up to 1,000 new parking spaces and urged the convening of a Harriman Campus working group to identify and analyze how to transform the Campus.
- A [December 2022 letter](#) urged that we consider transforming the campus layout, adding developable land, and bringing the UAlbany School of Public Health to campus. The letter also urged the convening of a working group of stakeholders to comprehensively develop the region's "Research Triangle".

- In July 2023, your office issued an [Executive Order mandating state agencies to review state-owned lands](#) to determine whether state sites could be used either for housing development or to support nearby housing developments.
- An [October 2023 Albany Times Union op-ed](#) urged the state to leverage the Wadsworth investment as an impetus to transform the Harriman Campus for the 21st Century, and raised serious concerns on a 27-acre perimeter fence and more parking spaces.
- A [December 2023 letter](#), signed by local elected officials, conveyed the serious concerns with preliminary plans that included excessive parking spaces, no potential for retail or housing units, and urged the inclusion of a comprehensive traffic study regarding repurposing of the Campus and the surrounding ‘ring roads’.
- A [February 2024 letter](#) detailed many of the above concerns repeatedly and urged that a working group be convened and included as part of the project.
- Written and oral testimony was provided in [March 2024 and December 2024](#) at public hearings that entailed many of these and the community’s concerns.
- A [December 2024 letter](#) was sent following the conclusion of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York’s (DASNY) issuance of its scoping document, State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), and response to collected public comments. This urged the relevant state agencies engaged on the project to engage with elected officials, stakeholders, and community groups to address concerns raised previously.
- In [January 2025, legislation](#) (S.1613 Fahy/A.XXXX Romero) was introduced to require 7 acres of the 27-acre Wadsworth parcel be set aside for retail and housing units, in line with your administration’s Executive Order requiring state agencies to identify and develop land under their control that can be repurposed for housing and residential units.
- In January 2025, the [final SEQR scoping document](#) was issued that repeatedly ignores all public comments and letters submitted as part of this process.

An astounding 63% of the City of Albany’s properties are considered tax exempt, including the Harriman State Office Campus. Encouraging spinoff development on these acres can also help to alleviate Albany’s unique tax burden as the state’s capital city. Additionally, encouraging greater walkability and multi-modal transportation will reduce the need for additional parking spaces, stimulate the local economy, and incentivize needed private sector investment.

Please note, these repeated requests to prevent another 1960s-style design will not impact the footprint of the Wadsworth Lab design *nor cause any delay* as we are all eager to see shovels in the ground as soon as possible. A 21st-Century design limits the number of surface-level parking spaces, reserves dedicated space for new housing stock and small businesses and reconnects the Harriman Campus with the surrounding neighborhoods as critical components of this project.

Again, as a broad coalition of elected officials, labor leaders, neighborhoods groups, community advocates, and more, **we urge you to designate 7 acres of the 27-acre Wadsworth Laboratory property for mixed-use development as set forth under S.1613/A.5918 and fully capitalize on the opportunity provided by this \$1.7 billion project to our surrounding community and City of Albany.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and for your Administration's continued commitment to the greater Capital Region. We look forward to your response and working with you and your office on this critical project. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Senator Patricia Fahy's office with any questions or concerns at (518) 455-2225 or fahy@nysenate.gov.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Fahy
New York State Senator, 46th District



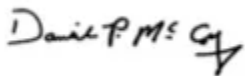
Gabriella A. Romero
Assemblymember, 109th District



John T. McDonald, III
Assemblymember, 108th District



Kathleen Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany



Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive



Joanne Cunningham
Chair, Albany County Legislature



Wanda Willingham
Deputy Chair, Albany County Legislature



Dennis Feeney
Majority Leader, Albany County Legislature



Lynne Lekakis
Deputy Majority Leader, Albany County Legislature



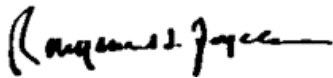
Carolyn McLaughlin
Albany County Legislator, District 1



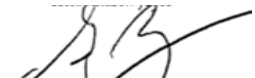
William Reinhardt
Albany County Legislator, District 33



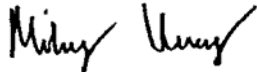
Jeffrey Kuhn
Albany County Legislator, District 35



Ray Joyce
Albany County Legislator, District 13



Gary Domalewicz
Albany County Legislator, District 10



Mickey Clearey
Albany County Legislator, District 32



Victoria Plotsky
Albany County Legislator, District 38



Bill Ricard
Albany County Legislator, District 17



Dustin Reidy
Albany County Legislator, District 30



Ellen Rosano
Albany County Legislator, District 24



David Mayo
Albany County Legislator, District 20




Beroro T. Efekoro
Albany County Legislator, District 7



Andrew Joyce
Albany County Legislature, District 9



Frank Commisso
Albany County Legislator, District 11



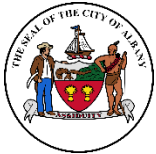
Susan Quine-Laurilliard
Albany County Legislator, District 22



Merton Simpson
Albany County Legislator, District 2



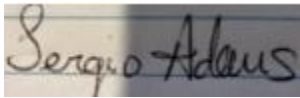
Corey Ellis
Albany Common Council President



Darius Shahinfar
Albany City Treasurer



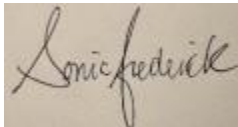
Dorsey Applrys
Albany City Auditor



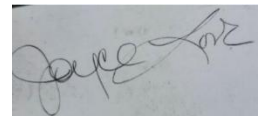
Sergio Adams
Albany Common Council, Ward 7



Jahmel Robinson
Albany Common Council, Ward 5



Sonia Frederick
Albany Common Council, Ward 1



Joyce Love
Albany Common Council, Ward 3



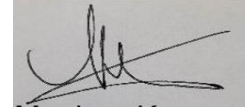
Kelly Kimbrough
Albany Common Council, Ward 4



Richard Conti
Albany Common Council, Ward 6



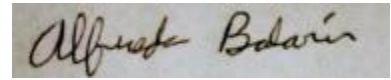
Jack Flynn
Albany Common Council, Ward 8



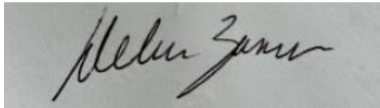
Meghan Keegan
Albany Common Council, Ward 9



Owusu Anane
Albany Common Council, Ward 10



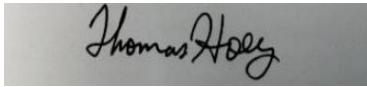
Alfredo Balarin
Albany Common Council, Ward 11



Deborah Zamer
Albany Common Council, Ward 14



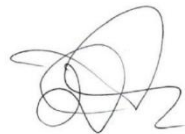
Ginnie Farrell
Albany Common Council, Ward 13



Tom Hoey
Albany Common Council, Ward 15



E. Hyde Clark
Albany Common Council, Ward 12



David VanLuven
Town Supervisor, Bethlehem



Peter Barber
Town Supervisor, Guilderland



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Sheetmetal Workers Local 83, Business Manager



Matthew Riordan
Ironworkers Local 12, President



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Heat & Frost Insulators Local 40



Timothy Morris, President
Millwrights Local 1163



Donald Winkle, Board Member
International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 35



Christopher Manus
IUOE Local 158, President



Josh Shaul
LiUNA! Local 157, Business Manager



Mark Eagan
Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, President



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Elizabeth Young
Redburn Development Partners, President



Jeff Mirel
Rosenblum Companies, Principal



Sean Maguire
Albany County Land Bank
Executive Director



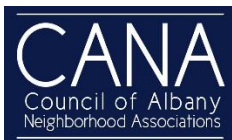
Arlene Way
Arbor Hill Development Corporation
Executive Director



Mark A. Castiglione
Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Executive Director



Capital District Transportation Authority
Michael Collins
Interim Chief Executive Officer



Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations



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Pine Hills Neighborhood Association, President



Violetta De Rosa
Helderberg Neighborhood Association
President



Matt Wadlington
Downtown Neighborhood Association
President

Melrose Neighborhood Association

Managing Board
Melrose Neighborhood Association



Mike O'Brien, President
Upper Washington Neighborhood Association



Capital Area Urban League

Elaine Frazier
Capital Area Urban League
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



Eva Bass
AVillage, Inc.
Chief Executive Officer



Eva Bass
Bridge Tha Gap, Founder and President



Deborah Brown-Johnson
NAACP Albany Chapter



Daquetta Jones-Johnson
Trinity Health Alliance, Chief Executive Officer



Andrew Neidhart
Walkable Albany, Founder

CAPITAL STREETS

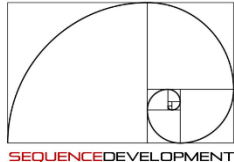
James Rath
Capital Streets, Executive Director



Pamela Howard
Historic Albany Foundation, Executive Director



Starletta Smith
YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Executive Director | TL Metzger Associates, LLC, Founder



Sequence Development
Jeffrey Buell, Principal

cc: NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
Commissioner Jeanette Moy, Office of General Services
Commissioner James McDonald, M.D., MPH, Department of Health
Hope Knight, President and CEO, Empire State Development
Robert Rodriguez, President and CEO, Dormitory Authority
Blake Washington, Director, Division of the Budget
Kathryn Garcia, Director of State Operations, Governor Hochul
Leonard Peruski, Director, Wadsworth Center