



Somerville Chamber of Commerce

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March 30, 2010

Aldermen Sean O'Donovan
Land Use Committee Chair
c/o John J. Long, City Clerk
City of Somerville
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

RE: 188847 – Proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances of allowable uses, requirements for special permits and purpose statements in IA and IP zones.

Dear Chairman O'Donovan:

I am writing to the Land Use Committee in the hope that 188847 does not prevail.

- 1) the zoning amendment was hastily drafted without any direct contact with Innerbelt business and property owners;
- 2) the authors cite a Kennedy School Study that has yet to begin;
- 3) provisions of the pre-March 12th zoning amendment would restrict -
 - a. higher uses (contrary to the earlier administration/innerbelt discussion on working toward higher uses);
 - b. wholesale and warehouse uses (contrary to proven and municipally profitable existing uses);
- 4) the authors subsequently introduced changes in major categories (Communications, Utility, and Transportation) **AFTER** the Planning Board's public comment period had expired March 12, 2010; and
- 5) the timing of the city's restriction of uses (and consequential diminution of property values) is happening under the specter of an eminent domain taking in the Innerbelt.

It is my hope that as the Land Use Committee takes up this matter, there will be an opportunity for input from the private sector. Such discussion could be an opportunity to update and enlighten the public dialogue about past developments, present value, and future growth of IA and IP zones in the interests of the whole community.

Sincerely,

Tom Bent
Chair, Somerville Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee