



September 11, 2023

To: Mayor Brendan Pratt
Altoona City Council
Altoona Plan Commission

Re: Otter Creek Landing Twin Home Development

Please accept this letter in support of the proposed Planned Community Development and General Development Plan to provide for the Otter Creek Landing Twin Home development on North Hillcrest Parkway.

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce has served our community since 1915 as the advocate of business. We have 1,100 investor organizations who employ more than 45,000 individuals throughout the area. We work to represent the business community as a champion of a strong local and regional economy. Our 2023 Business Issues Agenda includes the following excerpts related to housing policies:

The local supply of available and affordable housing impacts our ability to meet the needs of a growing population, as well as affordability for all individuals and families. The Chippewa Valley Housing Task Force found that there is a shortage of housing in our community at all price and income levels. It is important for public policy to encourage increasing the supply of housing and removing barriers to housing development. Although it is often natural for neighbors to resist change, it is important to consider the overall community welfare and give it priority while respecting public input.

- The Chamber will encourage local jurisdictions to follow through on comprehensive planning activities that foresee future housing development. We will support approval of responsible development proposals that meet needs to increase housing supply, including appropriate annexation, zoning, site plan, and other approvals.

This infill proposal is an appropriate and responsible opportunity to meet the goals of the City of Altoona's Comprehensive Plan and to help meet the critical housing needs of our wider community. It promotes cost-effective, compact growth targeted to first-time home buyers and young professionals who desire to become part of the Altoona community. We encourage its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Brendan Pratt".

Vice President Governmental Affairs
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
Reply to: rogers@eauclairechamber.org 715-858-0616