



May 10, 2023

To: Mayor Brendan Pratt  
Altoona City Council

Re: Annexation of the Planert and Lippert Property, MBR #14574  
May 11 Altoona City Council Public Hearing and Meeting

Please accept this letter in support of the proposed Planert/Lippert Annexation being considered by the Altoona City Council at its May 11, 2023, meeting.

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.

We believe the proposed annexation is in the best interests of the City of Altoona and our wider community because it will foster the type of responsible development that will contribute in a positive way to our local housing needs. The City of Altoona is in the best position to provide the municipal services best suited for the property. It is a logical extension of the City considering the continued demand for housing in our area and Altoona's positive reputation as a desirable community.

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