

My wife Laura and I live about a mile south of the McMillan site, and the more we learn about the VMP proposal, the more enthusiastic we have grown. We definitely welcome the jobs, the new neighbors, services, the architecture, recreational opportunities, and enhanced transportation options it would bring. We are desperate for relief from water runoff that flows down the hill to our street. Most of all, we enjoy the pride of knowing our city is getting bigger, better, stronger, more diverse & more robust.

The people of Vision McMillan have already been good neighbors to us. They have appeared at our Civic Association, helped with a clean-up, and participated in events. They have always been eager to answer questions, and they listen actively to our concerns. They have shown themselves to be responsible, and responsive to the surrounding community.

We understand the intention of the site, for over a quarter century, has been toward mixed-use. It saddens us that a few of the very people likely to benefit most from the enhancement want to preserve a barren, abandoned patch. We are mystified by the position, whose reasoning appears tied to an outmoded attachment to cars and unlimited free parking for commuters from outside DC.

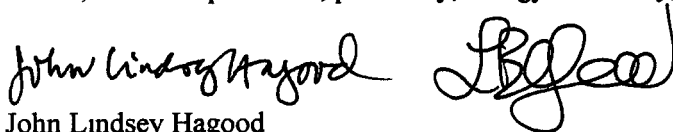
The fears of increased traffic on our streets are valid. Laura and I live in house on a street that swarms with cars from Maryland, six days a week—with all the attendant fumes, music, honking, and vibrations. Traffic is going to increase, no matter what decisions are made about McMillan. We would prefer that Washington's byways be filled first with residents of Washington—ideally in buses, on bicycles and on foot, rather than with Marylanders in single-occupancy vehicles. The flowering of McMillan will encourage us all to consider what transportation choices are best, rather than assuming driving and parking is the only solution.

From what we can tell, the project will benefit everyone—especially those of us who live near it. The advantage to our property values, and the District's assessments go along with tangibles. As swimmers, the pool. As Bikeshare users, density and slope to downtown. As people aging, the resources of a medical community. As consumers, more and better options close by for shopping and services. And as breathing human beings, a chance to enjoy, at last, the history, the clean air, and views.

We proudly, even joyfully support this plan for our neighborhood and city—especially how it emphasizes the historic nature of the site. We're tired of a scruffy patch hidden behind tall grass and chain-link fences.

Sure, change is hard. I was born in DC, over 50 years ago. I long for the days when I could rent a home on Capitol Hill, two blocks behind the Supreme Court, for \$100 a month. I'm one who thinks the Mall looked best in 1890, suffused with trees. But I'll gladly trade that for a hilltop in our Ward 5 that plugs into the burgeoning economic and scientific rewards around medicine and medical technology.

In our view, the plan delivers good things that make cities desirable: variety, diversity, opportunity, access, shared experiences, proximity, energy efficiency, and life together.



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