

October 27, 2022

Mayor Mike Matson  
Davenport City Council Members  
Davenport City Hall  
226 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801

**RE: City of Davenport's proposed amendment to the City's North Urban Renewal Area Plan.**

Dear Mayor Matson and Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment of the North Urban Renewal Area Plan. The amendment includes two projects, one internal TIF amendment to allow the use of TIF funds to reimburse \$275,000 to the City's General Fund and another titled Fair Oaks Foods, which is providing \$6.4 million in incentives to Fair Oak Foods as a business attraction project. As for the internal TIF amendment, the Board has consistently opposed the use of TIF to reimburse the City for staffing costs.

For the Fair Oaks Foods project, The Board supports the use of tax increment financing for economic development projects which both increase the tax base and create new jobs. According to Susanne Knutsen's letter, the Fair Oaks Foods project will create 247 new full time positions paying on average \$23.95/hr plus benefits. However, The Board does not support the use of TIF for the public infrastructure costs associated with the Fair Oaks Foods project. The Board does not support the use of TIF for infrastructure costs when there are other more equitable sources of municipal financing available for such projects.

The Scott County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to comment on this plan amendment. While the Board is supportive of the increase to the tax base and creation of new jobs, the Board also believes the use of TIF by the City of Davenport to reimburse its General Fund for these economic development staff and public infrastructure costs is inappropriate. We would like to continue a spirit of cooperation with the City of Davenport on economic development projects that create jobs and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Ken Beck, Chairman  
Scott County Board of Supervisors

xc: Corri Spiegel, Davenport City Administrator;  
Mahesh Sharma, Scott County Administrator