



December 1, 2010

Ms. Ann Pieper-Eisenbrown
Chair
Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Ms. Pieper-Eisenbrown:

On behalf of the more than 600 union contractors and 22,000 trades people Building Advantage represents, I ask that the HPC please issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to Jackson Street Management LLC's proposal to construct a high-quality hotel near East Wisconsin Ave. and North Milwaukee St. in Downtown Milwaukee.

I see no better way to preserve and honor Milwaukee's rich history than to support its successful future. The buildings the hotel would replace are severely deteriorated, have graffiti and broken windows and are extremely outdated. Their architecture has been significantly altered, to the point where only 450 square feet – less than 10 percent of the 4,900 square-foot total – of the façade is original. The buildings have been mostly vacant and neglected for quite some time.

Jackson Street Management offers a much better alternative for the site – a \$50 million, privately funded hotel project that would create 200 permanent jobs, up to 450 construction jobs and hundreds of indirect jobs. The proposal features an attractive design, by a local firm, that will complement and enhance the historic buildings around it.

Milwaukee is in no position to turn down a privately funded proposal that would bring hundreds of good jobs, millions of dollars in new tax revenue, a world-class hotel and – above all – an attractive and vibrant new building to our region. I ask that you and your fellow members of the HPC issue the COA and help build a positive future for Downtown.

Please include this letter in the official record and share my comments with your fellow HPC commissioners and staff. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ken Kraemer
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Tom Barrett
Alderman Willie Hines
Alderman Robert Bauman

Building Advantage of Wisconsin – Construction Labor Management Council of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc.

3303 S. 103rd Street | Milwaukee, WI 53227 | Phone: 262.229.5959

Email: kkraemer@buildingadvantage.org | www.buildingadvantage.org