

Draft Comments Z & D

**Mr. Chairman and member of the committee, I am
John Daniels the chairman of the Greater Milwaukee
Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to briefly
share with you why the Greater Milwaukee Committee
wants to express in unequivocal terms its support for
the project that you are considering. That support
really is not just project specific but it really goes
beyond that. We all know that you and many others
are working to address the challenges around education
in our community.**

As chairman of the Greater Milwaukee Committee our members have indicated that finding creative innovative and effective approaches to create educational opportunities for youngsters in this region but especially in Milwaukee is a top priority. That is why in an unprecedented way the Greater Milwaukee Committee joined with Milwaukee Public Schools and other schools in creating its Teachtown effort to assist in bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars and initiatives to support the recruitment of the brightest

teaching talent to our schools (public, choice and charter). It has been a remarkable success and we are continuing that support this year. I can tell you this innovative effort has had a lot of concrete impact. For example, recently I spoke to over a dozen deans of education from universities around the country about this and they were impressed with the innovative approach in Milwaukee, clearly leading to their encouraging the best and brightest to come to our community.

A community is defined not by what it says because everyone says they favor education but by what it does. Therefore, at the Greater Milwaukee Committee we, in addition to the many efforts of tutoring and school sponsorships, have been supporting and replicating the best initiatives in the country which give us an educational advantage. I can tell you that this project falls exactly into that category.

As a result, over a year ago we pulled together some of the best and most experienced real estate minds in our

**community to develop ways to help with housing for
educators with other groups. This group formed in
February of 2013 and was led by its co-chair Barry
Mandel. I say this because I personally had the
opportunity to visit similar projects in cities such as
Baltimore and saw first hand the exceptional
collaboration, cooperation and creativity created for
teachers. That group carefully evaluated the best
options and strongly supports this project because it
can be a signature project for our community's
commitment to attracting educators. We all know that**

teachers are vital to the educational achievement of youngsters and far too often their work is undervalued and not promoted. Milwaukee, like several other leading cities, has an opportunity to provide a project that will not only create innovation and opportunity among these professionals but will send a positive signal to so many that we value teachers and education and that we are willing to make things happen for educators.

The Greater Milwaukee Committee recognizes that

there are many people working on addressing the

educational needs but the real test on these issues are on

finding the very best ideas and promoting those. The

best ideas are not always the easiest but we in

Milwaukee have a real opportunity through Teachtown

and through projects like this to really advance the ball.

Thank you for your consideration.