

December 15, 2014

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
City of Milwaukee – Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

As President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin, I am writing to indicate support for the current plan to move forward with The Milwaukee Streetcar project. My testimony at last week's zoning committee meeting reflected my supportive sentiments.

The Streetcar is extremely important to the vitality of the economy of the City, and in attracting and retaining new and existing young professional talent. As someone who left my home of Milwaukee and worked in the District of Columbia and returned, I am excited what about what the Streetcar can do for our downtown. Washington D.C. has an excellent metro system complimentary to buses to make D.C. accessible for work and play. I experienced and observed how their metro system made life easier for neighborhoods to connect and for citizens to want to remain within or immediately outside the city. It is a hub for young and diverse talent.

The Streetcar will build up our limited infrastructure allowing residents and visitors to be more mobile and our developers to plan future expansions. My support is especially strong because of the planned linkages of the streetcar to the immediate surrounding areas and out, much of what represents African American communities. I see the streetcar as an eventual economic and social bridge builder that can break the barriers hurting our city.

Finally and most importantly, the streetcar projects 720 new construction jobs and links 80,000 employees in the downtown area. The chamber supports entrepreneurs, contracts, and employment. Given the challenges in our community, we are interested in opportunities and amenities that make us competitive with such cities as Chicago, Seattle, and Atlanta in attracting a diverse talent base.

Thank you for your support and leadership in the streetcar project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eve M. Hall

President/CEO

African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

Cc: Common Council