



December 8, 2011

Alderman Bob Bauman, Chair
Public Works Committee
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee:

On behalf of the Zilber Family Foundation, I am writing to express our support for the redevelopment of the Airline Yards. I hope that the Redevelopment Authority also will support this important project, given its potential to stimulate revitalization on the city's south side.

As you may know, the Zilber Family Foundation supports efforts to improve selected neighborhoods in Milwaukee, including Clarke Square, Layton Park, Burnham Park, and Silver City. We provide grants to nonprofit organizations to address basic needs, increase access to social and economic opportunity, and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. The Airline Yards redevelopment project touches on all three of these priorities. It will remove blight that affects the attractiveness of the area; improve job opportunities for people living nearby, and link adjacent neighborhoods to the Valley's amenities.

People living and working in areas served by the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative recognize the important of the Airline Yards redevelopment project, and have included it in the Quality of Life Plans they've created to guide community activity over five years. Because of this, the Zilber Family Foundation has made a \$500,000 investment in the Menomonee Valley Partners/Urban Ecology Center joint project.

Of course, we were attracted to the opportunity to help leverage the City's leadership in acquiring the site and beginning to improve it. Given our very limited resources, we look for high levels of partnership – and this project is truly remarkable in that regard. The involvement of the City and the State with MVP and UEC to design and construct this project is exemplary, as is the engagement of philanthropic and neighborhood leaders.

We are convinced that so much more will be accomplished at the site than would be possible if any one entity were working alone. We remain committed to the collective vision, and ask that your critical support sustain the momentum to bring that vision to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Lloyd'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Lloyd
Executive Director