

April 24, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this letter in support of the approval of a temporary historic designation of Gettelman Brewery's earliest buildings. This temporary designation will allow time to pursue potential routes to the preservation and rehab

According to the application, beneath both buildings are intact underground lagering cellars. Milwaukee brewing historian Leonard P. Jurgensen attests that they are the last viable cellars in the city. They were standard in breweries built before mechanical refrigeration was introduced in 1880. The "caves" cooled beer naturally. The site's historic cellars, were transformed to a "rathskeller" in the 1930s and became a longtime hub of Milwaukee civic life. These aspects present significance to the Milwaukee landscape.

In addition, The Milwaukee Industrial Properties Intensive Survey, prepared for the Wisconsin Historical Society by Mead & Hunt lists the Gettelman buildings as properties recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The report indicates that the buildings contribute to historic significance under the criteria of history. Importantly the buildings are also likely to be eligible for historic tax credits that would make rehab and restoration more financially feasible.

Beer and breweries are an important part of Milwaukee's history. It is imperative that these buildings be saved and repurposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori A. Gensch