

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507



Dear Mayor Gray,

My belief in the importance of downtown is so strong that I've made it my life's work. AU Associates focuses on adaptive use, opportunities for urban infill and the revitalization of existing structures. We have been directly responsible for creating more than 500 units of mixed-income housing, 100,000 square feet of commercial space and more than \$124 million of projects across Kentucky and West Virginia. Five of those projects are in Lexington. We are now working on the sixth project; the iconic Fayette County Courthouse for downtown Lexington, so it is with complete conviction and dedication that I write this letter.

What makes Lexington so special is our commitment to preservation, our love of greenspace and nature, and our priority on infill redevelopment to preserve our beautiful rural landscape. But I've seen first-hand the challenges of building, working and living downtown for all demographics of our community.

Families of all income levels want a safe place for walking or biking. While some do those activities for their health benefits, for others it is a necessity because they can't afford a car.

Lexington is making great strides by increasing bike paths in town and trails that connect us to our rural neighbors. We're also rethinking and expanding efforts for affordable housing and improving access to community and technical training and education. But we must continue to make strides in helping all neighborhoods of Lexington feel connected and be more accessible, to create a communal gathering spot in the heart of our city and to attract a diverse group of residents and visitors. We must construct the Town Branch Commons project.

It's not often that a project helps all of those demographics and provides benefits related to safety, economic development, community building and accessibility. The Town Branch Commons is that project. I urge you to support the TIGER grant request, which will help launch this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Holly B. Wiedemann  
President