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MIT School of Science

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April 1, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council:

On behalf of MIT's School of Science, I would like to express my strongest support for the Institute's proposed rezoning of Kendall Square.

These are the most challenging times for research universities, in general, and MIT, in particular, since the Second World War. The drastic reduction in Federal research budgets, which has already taken place and seems impossible to reverse, means a dramatic reduction in the numbers of graduate students and research staff. This is likely to affect basic research even more than applied research, and one can argue that basic research is what has made Kendall Square birthplace of so many high-tech companies.

The income from MIT's new properties in Kendall will help offset losses in government funding. More important, MIT's relationships and collaborations with our partners —especially hospitals and companies nearby — are what will make us competitive for the smaller pot of research dollars that remains. Increased research capacity in Kendall Square, and the promise of augmented interdisciplinary opportunity, will serve to nurture new linkages that will help to protect the future of science in Cambridge.

I urge you to move swiftly to approve MIT's Kendall Square zoning petition so that together we can keep the research in basic science on track to help address global challenges.

Sincerely,

Marc Kastner

Marc Kastner
Dean, School of Science
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