



48

April 8, 2013

To: Members of the Cambridge City Council

From: Thomas A. Kochan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TKochan", written over the printed name.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight to urge you to vote positively on the MIT Kendall Square Rezoning Petition. I am a Professor of Management at MIT's Sloan School, and am speaking here as Chair of the MIT Task Force on Community Engagement in the MIT 2030 Planning. As you know, we were formed by Provost Chris Kaiser in August 2012 and issued a report on October 17, 2012 outlining the conditions necessary for our Task Force to support MIT filing this petition. You also know from our January 23, 2013 letter to you that the MIT Administration accepted and implemented our recommendations and, therefore, we supported moving forward with this petition.

Since that time MIT has put forward an enormous good faith effort to address the different stakeholder concerns, internally and externally, and has gone well beyond the recommendations of our Task Force. As you have heard from our Faculty Chair Samuel Allen, a faculty forum was held to discuss the petition, our recommendation that a separate study of graduate student housing needs and options has been initiated and includes a Cambridge City liaison, and further modifications to the proposal have been made based on expressed needs of different community and city officials.

I understand some people have suggested deferring the petition pending the outcome of the graduate student housing study. Our Task Force considered and rejected this option because we did not have sufficient data to reach a conclusion on this issue at this time. Instead, consistent with our MIT way of doing things, we called for and will now get a careful, thorough, methodical analysis of graduate student housing. I am confident that the right decisions will be made once that study is completed. Its results will be built into the on-going MIT 2030 Planning Process, and if appropriate, into the design considerations for the East Campus.

We are now ready and anxious to begin work on the design phase of the East Campus development process. We are planning to do this in a highly participatory, inclusive, and creative fashion. It will be led by a mix of knowledgeable MIT faculty in Architecture & Planning working in concert with our Task Force, the MIT Administration, MITIMCo staff, and with participation from the City. And, consistent with our agreement with the Cambridge Historical Commission, this group will propose designs for the East Campus and Gateway with and without the MIT Press Building.

So now is the time to move ahead together. This is a unique, historic opportunity to do this and the MIT faculty is ready to go to work with the City and all other stakeholders. I hope you will vote positively tonight and join us as we get to work.

Thank you for your guidance, collaboration, and partnership.