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June 30, 2014

Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Honorable members of the City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the membership of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce regarding the Carlone petition.

In Cambridge we are fortunate to have a strong business, residential and civic community that has thrived over the past ten years as new businesses have come to the City and existing businesses have expanded. This process has been guided by a group of seasoned planning professionals who volunteer many hours in their appointed positions on the Planning Board.

The Planning Board's current review process includes ample opportunity for residents, City staff, and elected officials to provide valuable feedback.. Projects are evaluated against a variety of standards – zoning, design guidelines, urban planning studies like K2C2, noise, sign and other ordinances. The review process is extensive and is responsive to input from all interested parties.

We recognize that no process is perfect but are concerned that the Carlone petition goes too far by eviscerating the critical role that the Planning Board plays in reviewing development projects, and that it will have a negative impact on the City's thriving economy and overall quality of life.

We ask the Council to carefully consider the impact this initiative may have on the future of Cambridge, and urge you to vote "No" on the Carlone petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah E. Kennedy".

Sarah E. Kennedy  
Director of Government Affairs