

ELLISON

DEVELOPMENT

Dear St. Petersburg City Council members,

As Tampa Bay residents and as one of the region's premier developers, we are vested in the economic future and the quality of life of St. Petersburg and the entire area. In downtown St. Petersburg alone, we are building The Nolen, a signature 23-story condominium, and we just held the ground-breaking for a new development we are leading on called The Central, a mixed-use project that will include an upscale hotel, Class A office space, retail space, workforce housing, and a parking garage that will be open to the public. The Hines/Rays Historic Gas Plant Development proposal builds on the city's momentum, and we strongly encourage you to support it.

This impressive project includes an attractive new ballpark for the Tampa Bay Rays and a mixed-use development that addresses key city needs such as more affordable housing, hotel rooms and office space. It will complement our projects, including those still on the horizon, and it will be a key economic driver for St. Petersburg and the entire Tampa Bay region.

Hines/Rays are excellent partners for this transformational project. We are well familiar with Hines, and they have the capacity and the vision to make this a success. The Rays are well-established as involved community partners, and they are successful both on and off the field.

It would harm St. Petersburg's long-term economic outlook to reject this plan. The Rays would leave, and we would never get another MLB franchise. St. Petersburg's reputation as a city where you can grow business and develop new projects would take a serious hit. It's likely that the site would sit stagnant with an empty dome and acres of empty parking lots for years, and that would not benefit our project or encourage others to invest in the city.

As business owners and as residents vested in the future of St. Petersburg, we view this as a critical moment for the city. This is an opportunity to bring more than \$6 billion in private investment to the city that will have a positive impact throughout St. Petersburg and the entire Tampa Bay Region. We urge the City Council to support the Hines/Rays Historic Gas Plant Development proposal.

Sincerely,



Casey S. Ellison
CEO, Ellison Development