

December 17, 2018

Northville Planning Commission  
City of Northville  
215 W Main Street  
Northville, MI 48167

**Re: Daylighting the Rouge River**

Dear Northville Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Friends of the Rouge (FOTR), we wish to submit a formal statement regarding our involvement with the Northville Downs' developer, Hunter Pasteur Homes ("HPH"). Primarily, it should be noted that FOTR is not a consultant, but rather an independent environmental nonprofit that provided unbiased feedback to HPH at their request. FOTR will not receive any monetary compensation for providing feedback on the development plans. We wish to remain independent in form and in public perception. We will continue to provide feedback as necessary to guide HPH in a direction that fits with our mission.

With that being said, the language submitted by HPH to the Northville Planning Commission on November 27, 2018, p.2 states that *"With daylighting the river, the development team has expanded to include some of the state's leading consultants for daylight rivers, including King & MacGregor Environmental and Ecological Consulting Services, Friends of the Rouge ("FOTR"), Grissim Metz Andriess Associates and Seiber Keast Engineering. Each of the previously listed consultants has spent considerable time providing their input regarding the new river, and the development team is working on a plan for the river that will comply and be permissible within all regulatory standards, including MDEQ, while also being aesthetically pleasing and a benefit for the entire community."*

**We want to reiterate to the Northville Planning Commission that we are not part of the "development team" as the other consultants who receive monetary compensation for their work. We provide our collaborative feedback based solely in response to the mission of FOTR which is to restore, protect, and enhance the Rouge River watershed through stewardship, education, and collaboration.**

The FOTR board, however, did agree to something more formalized regarding our assistance in searching for funding opportunities and acting as fiduciary should funding become available. If

this occurs, we will respectfully be requesting compensation for this service from the developer. We will work with our legal counsel to reach a more formal arrangement with the Developer in the upcoming months. It should be noted, that before we proceed any further with this endeavor, HPH should be ready to make a formalized monetary commitment in the amount of two million dollars as mentioned in previous conversations.

In our opinion it will be virtually impossible to secure additional funding until the HPH money has been secured by a third party with restrictions on that money for daylighting in perpetuity regardless of the outcome of the larger development. For some of the various avenues explored for funding, the potential additional partners would need to see all the related documents executed before moving forward with any commitments.

Therefore, the following statement should be noted with care: "*HPH and the development team are currently working with FOTR to source capital to fund the daylighting project. HPH is committing private capital towards daylighting the river while FOTR will raise the remaining funds for the project through grants from family offices, endowments and county, state or federal agencies.*"

**We wish to make it clear that though we have investigated funding opportunities for daylighting the Rouge River, the Northville Planning Commission should not have the impression that funding will be worked on now. Nor is there a guarantee for funding. The formal monetary commitment from HPH must be finalized before FOTR will seek commitments to daylighting funds.**

FOTR greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the plans as subsequent drafts emerge and has been encouraged by the progress, and acceptance of some of our suggestions.

**Daylighting the Rouge River offers the City of Northville an incredible opportunity to drastically improve the quality of life for all of us and for many generations to come. We are excited to be a part of a unique opportunity to revitalize a stretch of the Walled Lake Branch of the Rouge River -something that will not likely be an option again in any of our lifetimes.**

Respectfully,



Marie McCormick, Executive Director