



April 24, 2020

Mayor John Haila
City of Ames
515 Clark Ave.
Ames, IA 50010

RE: Extension of Utilities – Prairie View Industrial Center

Mayor Haila,

We write to you respectfully asking the Ames City Council to move ahead, however possible, with the deployment of sewer and water in Prairie View Industrial Center on the eastern side of Ames. We are aware that the lowest bid came in roughly 50% higher than the engineer's estimate resulting in a challenging decision on how to proceed.

Numerous steps have occurred to ready this part of our community for industrial development and meaningful job creation. Land owners agreed to annexation, the City of Ames annexed the property, Alliant Energy secured and paid for 5-year land options on over 700-acres of the 1,300-acre area, and they also underwrote the site certification program that places Prairie View on a number of exclusive lists for prospective industry consideration.

The Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC) anticipated sewer and water utility deployment, possibly, as early as the fall of 2018. Then we expected that it would be summer of 2019. Now it is the end of April of 2020, currently in the third year of the five-year options on the properties, and still we are no closer to connecting a prospective industry to sewer and water.

We appreciate the partnership we enjoy with the City of Ames and recognize the complexity of making prudent decisions to re-invest in the community. The anticipated impacts of Prairie View Industrial Center, as it relates to new property tax receipts and meaningful employment opportunities for our community, are immense. If the project cannot proceed as planned and needs to be scaled back to serve a smaller area, we would underscore that it is essential that we have some land available and fully served in Prairie View versus scrapping the entire project altogether because it is over budget.



Smart Choice

It is with this in mind that we respectfully ask you to proceed with a solution that will move this exciting new part of our community forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Winkleblack', written in a cursive style.

Chuck Winkleblack, Chair
Ames Economic Development Comm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Culhane', written in a cursive style.

Daniel A. Culhane, President & CEO
Ames Economic Development Comm.

CC: Gloria Betcher, Ward I
Tim Gartin, Ward II
David Martin, Ward III
Rachel Junck, Ward IV
Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, At-Large
Amber Corrieri, At-Large
Devyn Leeson, Ex-Officio
Steve Schainker, City Manager