

From: 15STEPS <15steps@fifteensteps.com>
Subject: Harolds Square
Date: June 7, 2017 at 2:26:31 PM EDT
To: michaels@tcad.org

To IDA Members,

I am writing in support of the Harold's Square project which comes before you for tax abatement.

This project could not be more important in terms of location and scale in the fabric of downtown. These buildings have been vacant for so long that they are having an affect on other businesses on and around the Commons. They show as vacancies to the community and to visitors sending the signal that the core of our community is not doing well. Perception is very important in the mind of the public when they are making decisions as to where to go to spend their dollars.

I understand that many people who oppose abatements for these kind of projects see it as simply a mechanism for lining the pockets of a developer. I believe that this is a misconception and that the costs involved in urban core development are high and that the eventual taxes that will be paid from this development will actually hold down property taxes in the future.

I strongly urge you to approve the abatements requested so that this project can finally go forward.

Ken Jupiter

15 STEPS
171 East State St
Ithaca NY 14850
[607-272-4902](tel:607-272-4902)
15steps@fifteensteps.com