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March 28, 2013

Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139
citycouncil@cambridgema.gov

To the Honorable, Members of the Cambridge City Council:

On behalf of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P), I am pleased to convey my enthusiasm and support for the Institute's Kendall Square proposal and urge you to take affirmative action on the rezoning petition before you.

SA+P has been very involved in the evolution of the Kendall Square petition and proposal. Several of our faculty experts served on the MIT Faculty Task Force asked to examine the Kendall Square proposal, and helped to shape its recommendations. As you know, two of the key recommendations made by the Task Force were to initiate a study of graduate student housing needs and a planning process for the East Campus/Gateway area. The careful work of the Task Force has provided momentum and guidance for new and exciting engagements for faculty in SA+P.

I am pleased that SA+P faculty member (and former Chancellor) Philip Clay is chairing the Graduate Housing Working Group, which will examine all aspects of the housing needs of our graduate student population. His nationally known expertise in housing policy and community development will serve our community well as he guides that effort with a cross section of MIT representatives, as well as a City-appointed liaison.

Personally, I am delighted to be taking a leadership role in the new East Campus/Gateway planning activity, along with others across the Institute and in the broader community, and am excited for the transformative opportunity that this presents for MIT, Kendall Square, and the City of Cambridge.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,



Adèle Naudé Santos
Dean
Professor of Architecture and Planning

Cc: Donna P. Lopez, Cambridge City Clerk, dlopez@cambridgema.gov