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April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY2014 TIGER Discretionary Grant Lower Hill Urban Redevelopment Infrastructure Project

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Pittsburgh Green Innovators fully supports The Sports & Exhibition Authority of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) application for a FY2014 TIGER VI Discretionary Grant.

This grant will enable the SEA to complete the remaining elements of a key development plan connecting the historic Hill District with Pittsburgh's downtown by addressing the problems of the physical barrier of the I-579 Crosstown Boulevard. Funding will provide for final design of a "cap" over the interstate highway, which will eventually reconnect the 28-acre site to Downtown. The "cap" will provide urban open space, opportunities for development, and pedestrian and bike-friendly access to the City's central business district.

The TIGER VI grant would additionally help to fund construction of a portion of a new urban street grid and associated infrastructure for the 28-acre site; and improvements to surrounding roads of Centre Avenue, Bedford Avenue, Crawford Street and Washington Place.

This project promises to be a model urban development plan as it seeks a LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) certification for the infrastructure and development, with the expectation that most buildings within the district will be individually LEED certified. It will complement both the LEED Gold certified CONSOL Energy Center as well as the anticipated LEED Platinum certification of the neighboring \$45M Energy Innovation Center (EIC) scheduled to open fall 2014.

The development program is expected to create approximately 4,000 jobs during construction and approximately 3,000 permanent jobs when fully built-out. It is anticipated to attract private investment of over \$379 million, and provide 606,000 SF of Class A office space, over 254,000 SF of commercial space, a 150 room hotel, a 2.8-acre urban green space, and 1,191 residential units.

We urge your approval of this Tiger VI grant, which will have long-lasting and significant economic impact by helping to spur further development, create jobs and attract added investment for the City of Pittsburgh and the Hill District Community.

Sincerley,



Thomas Bartnik, AICP LEED AP
Executive Director

cc: Deno De Ciantis, Ed.D., Board President