



April 19, 2022

Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: PenPlace

Dear Chair Cristol,

The Arlington Chamber supports Amazon's application to build PenPlace. PenPlace is a key part of Amazon's headquarters, which will bring thousands of new jobs to Arlington, helping to reduce our high office vacancy rates. It also represents a significant step forward in enhancing the strength of Arlington's commercial sector, diversifying our economic base, and growing this region inclusively.

Amazon's presence will create employment in tech, business, retail, and hospitality, among other fields. We will be better able to develop our computer science and tech talent pipeline, educating Arlington's youth for 21st century jobs. We will also secure more resources for the infrastructure and community projects that Arlington so desperately needs.

As we see tremendous business growth along the Silver Line, Arlington must work harder to compete with our neighbors to maintain dynamic and job-rich destinations that are more attractive than these alternatives. PenPlace is key to accomplishing this. The Helix is a signature building that will distinguish National Landing for decades to come. The acres of adjacent green space will draw in the surrounding neighborhood, making this a centerpiece of National Landing, and not simply a self-contained corporate campus. The biophilic design will bring much-needed greenery to the neighborhood, and the office buildings will bring thousands of customers to the new and existing retail in the area.

PenPlace will also bring a new site for Arlington Community High School, which will be a huge benefit for people throughout Arlington who need a flexible alternative to obtain a high school diploma.

The Arlington Chamber is excited for what Amazon's HQ2 will bring to the future of Arlington, and we are grateful for the work the County has done to make this happen. Since its arrival, Amazon has quickly become part of the Arlington community, supporting local businesses and nonprofits. Pen Place is a critical project for the future of National Landing and for Arlington. We are thrilled about its creation, and urge you to approve the application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "K" and "B" being significantly larger and more stylized than the rest of the letters.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board Vice-Chair Christian Dorsey, and members Matt de Ferranti, Libby Garvey, and Takis Karantonis; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Planner Peter Schulz