



March 10, 2020

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

Dear Chair Garvey,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce supports the major site plan amendment to Site Plan No. 53—the Key Bridge Marriott—to renovate the existing hotel and to construct two new residential buildings and a public esplanade overlooking the Potomac River. We believe that this project will be a landmark development and a gateway welcoming visitors to Arlington as they cross the Key Bridge from the District of Columbia.

The project proposes a substantial renovation of the existing hotel. The renovated hotel will be a high-quality, modern facility with extensive ballroom and meeting space, including a unique event space with views of the Potomac River. The updated facility will be a destination promoting travel to Arlington. Developments like this project further drive economic growth throughout Rosslyn and Arlington, as both visitors to the renovated hotel and residents in the new buildings will support other local businesses.

The project also will offer significant benefits to the general public, including the construction of a public esplanade facing the Potomac River and an overlook of the Colonial Branch creek and surrounding forest. There is also the potential for a second park on Fort Myer Drive in cooperation with the National Park Service. These features will be substantial additions to our open space network, replacing what today is largely a surface parking lot. In combination with Arlington's plans for Gateway Park, this new open space will transform the northern portion of Rosslyn.

We believe this development will benefit Rosslyn and Arlington, and encourage you to support it. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates

President & CEO

CC: Arlington County Board Vice Chair Erik Gutshall and members Katie Cristol, Matt de Ferranti, and Christian Dorsey; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Arlington County Planning Commission