



City of Cleveland
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

City Planning Commission

Robert N. Brown, Director
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August 28, 2009

Mr. David Beach, Chairperson
NRAC District 1
323 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 400
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

RE: Cleveland Rowing Foundation Rivergate Project

Dear Mr. Beach:

I am writing to offer my support for the Cleveland Rowing Foundation's application for the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant for the *Rivergate Project*. The Cleveland Rowing Foundation (CRF) has been a strong steward of the Cuyahoga River in the City of Cleveland for the past twenty years.

The Cuyahoga River winds through the City of Cleveland in Ohio's largest and most densely populated metropolitan area, but this largely industrial waterway offers limited green space and little public access. CRF's vision for the land at the former Commodore Club site in the Flats industrial district offers a unique opportunity to take private riverfront property and convert it to a more open public space use, with increased access to the Cuyahoga River.

The land on the site will be restored from its current industrial state, with impervious surfaces and little or no vegetation, to an open park-like setting with native plants in natural areas, which will improve water quality and bring more native species to the area.

The City of Cleveland has worked closely with the Cleveland Rowing Foundation for many years, and we are pleased to offer our support to the organization on this initiative.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Brown, Director
Cleveland City Planning Commission