



“Oregon East” Economic Development Testimony  
Dayton City Commission  
Stephanie Precht  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce  
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Good morning, my name is Stephanie Precht, and I am the Director of Public Policy and Economic Development for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. As the largest regional business advocate in the greater Dayton area, the Dayton Chamber represents nearly 2,800 businesses and organizations in southwestern Ohio in a nine county region. Over 93% of our members are small businesses. It is on behalf of these members that I am here to today to support the development of the “Oregon East” project, connecting strategic investments made across the City of Dayton.

The Dayton Chamber was a proud partner in the creation of the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan in 2009. This plan has provided a comprehensive and community based framework for economic development, and in the years since the adoption of the plan, we have worked diligently with our community partners to realize tremendous economic & community gains. Since 2009, we have seen an increase of 455 businesses in the City of Dayton, resulting in 4,254 jobs. Driven by the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan, we’ve worked to expand recreational opportunities along the river, to fill vacant storefronts, to expand commercial opportunities in the Oregon District and across the urban core, to increase the number of attractive urban residential spaces.

All of this work has resulted in a city that looks very different than it did 10 years ago. More people than ever want to live, work and play downtown. Since even before the inception of the Greater Downtown Plan, the City of Dayton has been transparent about the fact that the property along Wayne Ave and 4<sup>th</sup> street has been targeted for development opportunities. This “Oregon East”, as it is now being called, seeks to capitalize on the businesses that already exist in the area, and to attract new business, commercial & residential opportunities. Anyone who walks from the Oregon District to the Cannery knows that this is the perfect area to expand upon the many amenities

already offered, to increase density and to connect areas that remain unconnected within our city.

I applaud the work the City has done over the last decade to move forward with strategic economic development projects that are transforming our city. I would also like to acknowledge the countless volunteer hours that have gone in to making Garden Station a unique part of our city. I've spent days volunteering in and enjoying Garden Station myself. It is my hope that that this work is part of a larger commitment by concerned citizens to the idea that community gardens and green gathering spaces are a necessary part of the fabric of our lives. It is my understanding that the City of Dayton is working to identify an alternate location for a new community garden, and I applaud the commitment by the city to work closely with citizens to find new space. I would like to see other parts of our city transformed by the passionate volunteerism that has been exhibited by the Garden Station volunteers. Ultimately, we are all working toward the goal of a stronger, more vibrant City.