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November 8, 2013

Donald Garcia, Chairman Town of Hudson **Economic Development Commission** 78 Main Street, 3rd Floor Hudson, MA 01749

Re: Home Rule Petition for Liquor Licenses

Dear Chairman Garcia and Members of the Commission.

As you are aware, the Highland Commons shopping center continues to develop into a first-class, vibrant retail destination off of Coolidge Street on the Hudson/Berlin border. In connection with this ongoing development, we are proud both of the significant investment we have made in Hudson and also of our strong partnership with the Town, which continues to provide a variety of direct benefits to the Town and its residents. including employment opportunities and enhanced revenue. As we advance our plans to complete the full buildout of the shopping center, the introduction of new and exciting restaurant options is critical to the further success Highland Commons.

With this goal in mind, we are looking forward to the introduction of four new restaurants within the Hudson component of the shopping center. Construction of the first of these restaurants is expected to commence in 2014. These new restaurants will provide exciting new dining options, further activating the shopping center. In addition, the completion of these restaurants will provide new fees, enhanced tax revenues, meals tax receipts. as well as construction and permanent job opportunities, all benefiting Town residents. In total, these restaurants are anticipated to comprise approximately 25,000 square feet of new development within the shopping center, in the locations shown on the enclosed site plan, as previously approved by the Town,

However, one obstacle remains to the completion of this key development component - the lack of available liquor licenses necessary for these restaurants to locate in Hudson. Recently, members of the Board of Selectmen acknowledged this problem and expressed support for a legislative solution at their meeting on November 4th. As you may know, similarly-situated communities in Massachusetts have recognized the critical importance of making liquor licenses available in order to further important economic development initiatives. For example, a home rule petition sponsored by the Mayor and City Council of Quincy was recently adopted allowing for 27 additional liquor licenses to further the ambitious redevelopment plan for downtown Quincy.

With a similar goal of overcoming the present license shortage in Hudson to facilitate long-planned development, we respectfully request that the Commission consider, and, if appropriate, forward to the Board of Selectmen, a recommendation that they develop a home rule petition for consideration by Town Meeting next spring. This petition would request that the State Legislature authorize the Town the ability to grant five (5) additional all-alcohol, on-premises restaurant licenses to qualified restaurant establishments within Highland Commons, subject to customary licensing regulations, protections and procedures. In considering this request, the Town may wish to also consider whether, included in such a petition, additional licenses may be necessary to further other economic development efforts within the Town.

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We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to the opportunity to review this matter in greater detail with you and others in the Town. Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me either at (716)878-9626 or by e-mail at JamesBoglioli@Benderson.com.

Thank you,

BENDERSON DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

James A. Boglioli, Ésq.

Director, Right to Build - Northeast US

Enc.

Michelle Ciccolo, Community Development Director cc:

Peter Tamm, Esq., Goulston & Storrs.

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