April 1, 2013

To the Honorable, Members of the Cambridge City Council:

I am writing on behalf of MIT’s School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) to encourage you to approve the Institute’s rezoning petition for 26 acres of its land in Kendall Square.

Several SHASS departments (Economics and Political Science, for example) are located in MIT’s east campus area and will benefit tremendously from the new infusion of activity and vibrancy that will result from this proposal. We are particularly interested, as are all five MIT schools, in ensuring that our research and work is highly competitive in order to continue to attract top students, faculty and funding. I believe that the Kendall Square proposal can create an environment that is conducive to these objectives.

For example, the MIT Game Lab, a program of MIT SHASS Comparative Media Studies, explores the potential of play in the realms of entertainment to education, art to activism, science to socialization, and more. The MIT Game Lab explores new technologies of play by bringing together academics, students, and professionals from varied industries such as games, health care and finance to advance the role of research in game development. These kinds of robust connections between MIT researchers and local companies are what keep the Institute and Cambridge on the cutting edge of innovation, regardless of the field.

The vital mixed-use district being proposed in MIT’s zoning petition will be good for SHASS. The potential new vibrancy and cross-fertilization that is ahead of us is breathtaking. Thank you for helping us to get there.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deborah Fitzgerald
Kenan Sahin Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Professor of the History of Technology, Program in Science, Technology, and Society
April 1, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council:

On behalf of MIT’s School of Science, I would like to express my strongest support for the Institute’s proposed rezoning of Kendall Square.

These are the most challenging times for research universities, in general, and MIT, in particular, since the Second World War. The drastic reduction in Federal research budgets, which has already taken place and seems impossible to reverse, means a dramatic reduction in the numbers of graduate students and research staff. This is likely to affect basic research even more than applied research, and one can argue that basic research is what has made Kendall Square birthplace of so many high-tech companies.

The income from MIT’s new properties in Kendall will help offset losses in government funding. More important, MIT’s relationships and collaborations with our partners — especially hospitals and companies nearby — are what will make us competitive for the smaller pot of research dollars that remains. Increased research capacity in Kendall Square, and the promise of augmented interdisciplinary opportunity, will serve to nurture new linkages that will help to protect the future of science in Cambridge.

I urge you to move swiftly to approve MIT’s Kendall Square zoning petition so that together we can keep the research in basic science on track to help address global challenges.

Sincerely,

Marc Kastner
Dean, School of Science
Donner Professor of Science
March 28, 2013

Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139
citycouncil@cambridgema.gov

To the Honorable, Members of the Cambridge City Council:

On behalf of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P), I am pleased to convey my enthusiasm and support for the Institute’s Kendall Square proposal and urge you to take affirmative action on the rezoning petition before you.

SA+P has been very involved in the evolution of the Kendall Square petition and proposal. Several of our faculty experts served on the MIT Faculty Task Force asked to examine the Kendall Square proposal, and helped to shape its recommendations. As you know, two of the key recommendations made by the Task Force were to initiate a study of graduate student housing needs and a planning process for the East Campus/Gateway area. The careful work of the Task Force has provided momentum and guidance for new and exciting engagements for faculty in SA+P.

I am pleased that SA+P faculty member (and former Chancellor) Philip Clay is chairing the Graduate Housing Working Group, which will examine all aspects of the housing needs of our graduate student population. His nationally known expertise in housing policy and community development will serve our community well as he guides that effort with a cross section of MIT representatives, as well as a City-appointed liaison.

Personally, I am delighted to be taking a leadership role in the new East Campus/Gateway planning activity, along with others across the Institute and in the broader community, and am excited for the transformative opportunity that this presents for MIT, Kendall Square, and the City of Cambridge.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Adèle Naudé Santos
Dean
Professor of Architecture and Planning

Cc: Donna P. Lopez, Cambridge City Clerk, dlopez@cambridgema.gov
March 28, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council:

I am writing to thank you for your careful efforts with MIT and the community of Cambridge as you have worked to shape the Institute’s Kendall Square rezoning petition.

The MIT Sloan School of Management community is enthusiastically supportive of the proposal and particularly its goals to achieve a vibrant mixed-use district. Kendall Square is our neighborhood—it’s where we work, study, teach, collaborate, invent, and recreate. The increased sense of place that will be achieved with the MIT proposal will enhance this remarkable environment to make it even more compelling and welcoming.

All of Kendall Square’s citizens—our residential neighbors, employees from a wide variety of sectors, visitors, and the broader educational community—will benefit from the new retail, housing, commercial enterprise, and open space that is offered by this proposal. With regard to the latter, we are particularly interested in the proposed linkages that will better connect MIT Sloan to the main MIT campus.

We are also deeply committed to continuing to support the tremendous Kendall Square innovation ecosystem that is churning out new ways of thinking and doing every day. Our Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship—an interdisciplinary teaching and research center—is nurturing new ideas, novel approaches, and advanced technologies, while fostering continued competitiveness, and national and global prosperity. In that activity, the Center exemplifies the spirit and impact of most all Kendall Square inhabitants.

On behalf of the MIT Sloan School community, I urge you to take positive action on the MIT Kendall Square rezoning petition now, so we may all begin the fulfilling work of making Kendall Square the most vital and vibrant contributor to the city of Cambridge.

Sincerely,

David Schmittlein
John C Head III Dean
MIT Sloan School of Management
Professor of Marketing

DCS/tlh
April 1, 2013

To the Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council:

We are writing as the leaders of MIT’s School of Engineering to relay our strong support for the Institute’s Kendall Square rezoning petition that is before you.

The School of Engineering is MIT’s largest school, with 37% of the Institute’s faculty, 46% of its students, and 55% of its on-campus research funding. We strongly endorse MIT’s proposal to more effectively use the Kendall Square area to address MIT’s and Cambridge’s needs. Reinvigoration of the area will amplify the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in and around MIT that we all contribute to and count on to provide long-term economic sustainability for the City and beyond.

The petition calls for the gradual conversion of Kendall Square into a much-needed gateway that will better connect the MIT campus to the business district and nearby neighborhoods. Visitors to Kendall Square will see and experience first-hand the close connections between MIT and the City of Cambridge. In addition, the proposal has carefully preserved existing academic space that is so crucial to the Institute’s future.

Through a broad engagement with faculty, students, staff, and other members of our community, we believe the MIT administration has effectively and appropriately addressed the challenges and complexities of this proposal. A positive and balanced path forward has been established regarding graduate student housing and east-campus planning that will serve the MIT community as a whole.

Besides the obvious benefits of enhanced vibrancy and visibility, and a strengthened innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem, the financial benefits to both Cambridge and MIT from the proposed development are significant.

Finally, the proposal will allow us to further capitalize on the power of proximity that is so essential to our work. The School of Engineering’s “next-door” corporate relationships with Novartis, Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Genzyme, IBM, Sanofi Aventis, and other local and multinational companies are critical to our success in educating future leaders and addressing global challenges. Adding capacity to, and improving the environment for, these key participants in our network of collaborators will enable us to be even more successful as a research university and provide significant benefits for the local economy.
We hope that you will support us in our endeavors.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Waitz
Dean, School of Engineering
Jerome C. Hunsaker Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Cynthia Barnhart
Associate Dean, School of Engineering
Ford Professor of Engineering
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Jaime Peraire
Department Head, Aeronautics and Astronautics
H.N. Slater Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Douglas A. Lauffenburger
Department Head, Biological Engineering
Ford Professor of Biological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and Biology

Klavs F. Jensen
Department Head, Chemical Engineering
Warren K. Lewis Professor of Chemical Engineering
Andrew J. Whittle
Department Head, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Edmund K. Turner Professor

Anantha P. Chandrakasan
Department Head, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Joseph F. and Nancy P. Keithley Professor of Electrical Engineering

Munther A. Dahleh
Associate Department Head, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

William T. Freeman
Associate Department Head, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Stephen C. Graves
Interim Director, Engineering Systems Division
Abraham J. Siegel Professor of Management Science, Professor of Mechanical Engineering
and Engineering Systems

Christopher A. Schuh
Department Head, Materials Science and Engineering
Danae and Vasilis Salapatas Professor of Metallurgy
Mary C. Boyce
Department Head, Mechanical Engineering
Ford Professor of Engineering

Gareth H. McKinley
Associate Department Head, Mechanical Engineering
School of Engineering Professor of Teaching Innovation

Richard K. Lester
Department Head, Nuclear Science and Engineering
Japan Steel Industry Professor