



3702 Lake Street | Minneapolis, MN 55406

March 19, 2015

To whom it may concern,

Imagine if you will a future -a bright future- for all of our children in fifty or one hundred years from now. Imagine that we have turned our belching, toxic industrial zones into neighborhoods with sustainable Green employment districts that address both the environmental crisis as well as the social crisis existing in cities around our country and in the East Phillips neighborhood.

We stand at a critical crossroads and we are faced with a choice of going slowly -putting the equivalent of band-aids on an infected wound- or getting to the root of the illness and applying the corrective remedies.

Tamales y Bicicletas holds a vision that would shift the culture of throw-away transient communities by challenging the current model of gentrification that we see in many of our major cities -and along our light rail corridors- by providing well-paying jobs, healthy working conditions, and a healthy neighborhood environment that integrates pedestrian and bicycle transit options. It is not enough to provide Green solutions if they do not work for the people of the neighborhood. It is essential that those who live in and around the reality of urban industrialization are engaged in and fashion the solutions that will benefit them and their children.

Tamales y Bicicletas offers a bold proposal for the current Roof Depot Site (1860 East 28th Street). Our organization proposes that 40% of the proposed water yard be set aside for a bike shop, café, urban agricultural hydroponic and aquaculture institute, and a Green jobs re-employment center. This joint use proposal is contingent on the long term commitment of the City in providing the funding for the removal of Smith and Bituminous, in addition to the City actively supporting legislation to re-zone the area as a Green-employment industrial zone. In the interim period -before the industrial zone is retrofitted to the sustainable Green employment district-, the City should guarantee the implementation of strictly enforced high air quality standards. It is also critical that the City continue to advocate for and ensure that a high percentage of homes and rental properties in and around the proposed Roof Depot site remain affordable and do not follow the trends of gentrification that end up pushing out the current residents.

Kind Regards,

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Developing healthy Latino and immigrant communities through bikes, cultural empowerment and access to healthy foods.