



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

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President

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May 13, 2011

Huntington Town Council
100 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743

Dear Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to express my unqualified support for transit and downtown-oriented workforce housing projects on Long Island, including the 380-unit proposal by Avalon Bay Communities, Inc. adjacent to the Huntington LIRR station.

Like many employers on Long Island, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory is faced with the challenge of attracting and retaining the best and brightest young minds which are vital to the success of the Island's future. While Long Island provides a wonderful living environment for those with more established careers and families, workers at the beginning of their careers face a severe shortage of suitable, affordable housing. Young postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, programmers and skilled technicians are often frustrated in their search for modern, efficient and low-maintenance rentals that are suited for one or two occupants. Instead, they are limited to the current housing stock of single family homes, accessory apartments and all too often, illegal rentals.

The young scientists of today wish for vibrant communities close to downtowns and public transportation. Unfortunately, these types of communities are few and far between on the Island. In fact, many CSHL scientists are forced to commute from Manhattan or Queens by railroad to find suitable communities. Avalon's proposed project in Huntington Station is precisely the sort of community that would provide the amenities, convenience and energy that all young scientists seek.

It is projects like the Avalon Bay Communities that give hope to halting the exodus of young, bright minds from Long Island. Just as the suburbs of Long Island were built to meet the needs of young servicemen returning from the Second World War, I hope that we can help to provide a home to the young adults of today.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stillman

cc: Jo-Ann Raia, Town Clerk