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May 22, 2019

Dane County Board of Supervisors City-County Building, Room 106B 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3342

RE: Clean Lakes Alliance supports land purchase for Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Dear Dane County Supervisors,

Clean Lakes Alliance supports Dane County's plan to purchase 160 acres of land for preservation as part of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction (published in 2012 by Clean Lakes Alliance and partners) outlines 14 urban and rural actions to improve water quality in our Yahara lakes. The county's land purchase is in line with three of the rural actions.

According to the Yahara CLEAN plan, projects in the upstream regions of our watershed directly impact water quality downstream. Improvements to water quality in Lake Mendota benefits other lakes in the Yahara Watershed, including Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa. Through the purchase and restoration of the land, less algae producing phosphorus will enter Lake Mendota and we will create a more resilient landscape in this critical headwater in the watershed.

In addition, restoring the property to natural prairie will help to improve infiltration of rainwater. Through restoration of the property into prairie, Dane County expects to prevent more than 2.6 million gallons of runoff each year, helping to mitigate flood risk in the watershed.

Clean Lakes Alliance appreciates the Dane County's leadership to improve lake health. Thank you for all you are doing.

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James . Tye

Executive Director