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To: [Krohn, Margaret](#)
Cc: [Mary O'Connor](#)
Subject: San Damiano Amendment
Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 12:53:01 PM

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Dear Supervisors,

Due to a City of Monona budget meeting at the same time, I'm unable to attend your meeting tonight.

I'm writing in support of EANR-C-01, the amendment put forth by Supervisor Sarah Smith and others to fund a grant of \$2M for the City of Monona to be used towards the purchase and preservation of the San Damiano property at 4123 Monona Drive.

Monona's purchase of San Damiano is a unique opportunity to preserve one of the last undeveloped pieces of land on Lake Monona for future generations. It has long been a dream of many Monona residents. San Damiano consists of about 10 acres with 1,000 feet of shoreline. Many years ago it was the site of Native American encampments along the lake shore. In the 1880's it became part of the Frank Allis Jr. farm and was bequeathed to the priests of St. Norbert Abbey in 1929. Since then, it has not been touched except for the addition of a small garage on one side of the property. It is truly a special place.

We're a city of 8,000 completely surrounded by the City of Madison. Our parks and open space are heavily used and a major reason people move to Monona. The purchase of San Damiano is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to add additional parkland and public access to Lake Monona for both Monona and Madison's Lake Edge neighborhood as well as the rest of Dane County.

Monona has an accepted offer to purchase the property from St. Norbert Abbey for \$8.6M, with closing set for June 1, 2021. It's a big lift for a city of 8,000. Between now and closing we are working to raise funds from a variety of sources both public and private, to help defray the cost to the Monona taxpayer. The proposed grant would go a long way towards helping us achieve that goal.

Thank you so much for considering the amendment. We would appreciate your support.

Mary O'Connor

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