

MOUNT VERNON GROUP VIRGINIA CHAPTER



THE CITIES OF ALEXANDRIA & FALLS CHURCH, ARLINGTON COUNTY, AND EASTERN FAIRFAX & PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES

May 4, 2020

Melissa Riddy Director, Eastern Region Government and Community Relations Inova Health System

Dear Ms. Riddy,

The Mount Vernon Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club represents almost 4,000 Sierra Club members in an area that includes the Alexandria and Arlington communities. We look forward to welcoming Inova to care for our families in Potomac Yard Oakville Triangle. Our members also appreciate that clean air, clean water and a safe climate are the foundation for healthy people. In 2020, it is clear that threats to our environment represent a significant threat to the health and future of our families.

That is why our communities are taking bold action to reduce emissions and protect our citizens. The City of Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan 2040 has set a goal to reduce all community emissions 50% by 2030 and 80-100% by 2050. Arlington County's Community Energy Plan will result in all the electricity in the County coming from renewable energy by 2035 and delivers a net-zero carbon community by 2050.

The Mount Vernon Group therefore respectfully asks Inova to help lead our community to a healthy future. We ask that Inova act as a regional leader in healthcare sustainability with a flagship LEED Platinum medical facility at Oakville Triangle.

Medical facilities are among the largest energy users in any community. Because of those energy needs a sustainable facility that includes green building design, energy efficiency and photovoltaic solar is critical not only to helping combat the health impacts of global warming, but also to long-term cost savings. Setting a goal of net-zero carbon will mean a sustainable facility that will contribute to a healthy environment for decades to come.

In addition to benefitting our community, such a facility also presents tremendous opportunities for marketing, recruitment and community engagement. A LEED Platinum Healthplex would stand out amongst healthcare facilities in our region, demonstrating Inova's far-reaching vision and deep commitment to care, offer major opportunities in marketing, recruitment and employee retention.

The Mount Vernon Chapter hopes Inova will set a new standard for clean healthcare in Oakville Triangle. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss how we can work together to help make that happen.

Sincerely,

Rick Keller Chair, Mt. Vernon Group Virginia Chapter, Sierra Club rkeller49@verizon.net, 703-625-9055