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August 23, 2023

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister MacAulay,

I am writing on behalf of the Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association and many of my constituents in Ottawa Centre regarding the proposed development at 1081 Carling Avenue of two high rise towers of 27 and 16 storeys.

It is my understanding that on August 16, 2023, the City of Ottawa's Planning and Housing Committee voted in favour of this proposal. Prior to this, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) officials submitted a letter and a shadow study to the City in which it had been determined that the current development proposal at 1081 Carling Avenue would have serious impacts on the ongoing research taking place at the Central Experimental Farm. This shade study demonstrates that the construction of high-rise buildings at this address will lead to more than 100,000 minutes of sunlight lost per year and would make the research lands southeast of the towers unusable for most field experiments.

We have recently learned that AAFC officials were not invited by the City to present their study at the Planning and Housing Committee. As such, the proposed development will be reviewed again by the Planning and Housing Committee on September 20, 2023.

We know that the agricultural research taking place on the Central Experimental Farm is essential in ensuring we are better equipped to combat the effects of climate change, and AAFC officials should have an opportunity to highlight the significance of their ongoing work. The Central Experimental Farm is a jewel of our community, and as the Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre, I am committed to working with you and members of our community to ensure the Farm continues to thrive.

On behalf of my community, I request that you ensure that AAFC officials attend the upcoming City's Planning and Housing Committee meeting on September 20th, and present the study. This will ensure that the councillors have all the necessary information to make an informed decision.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I remain available should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Yasir Naqvi, MP
Ottawa Centre