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November 5, 2010

The Honorable Paul Bateman, Jr.
4425 Barnor Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Dear Councillor Bateman:

You will be asked in the coming days to make a decision on the future of parking meters in our City. There are many factors that you should take into account as you come to a decision. The Chamber wants to ensure you are aware of and understand our interest in the proposal.

The Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce supports the City's proposal to modernize Indianapolis' public parking system and appreciates the City's efforts to keep the Chamber involved as the process develops. Adequate parking availability is critical to commerce in the downtown and Broad Ripple areas. Patrons and visitors to these areas must feel that they are able to safely and affordably park their vehicles. Merchants need reliable turnover of public parking spaces to accommodate additional customers. Implementing modern technology will solve many of these problems and offer more convenient parking payment options for those using metered spaces.

Perhaps most important is the fact that this proposal provides the City of Indianapolis with a revenue opportunity to reinvest in the decaying infrastructure around these parking systems without putting the taxpayers at risk.

The creative use of one of our City's assets- parking meters, to create an increase in revenue to help maintain and repair streets, sidewalks and curbs that have been neglected for years should be commended. We encourage you to look at the terms of the deal and then cast a vote in favor of the parking meter deal.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Chamber Public Policy Directors Angela Smith-Jones, or Mike Biberstine at 317-464-2200 at the Chamber and they will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Roland Dorson
President

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