

SINCLAIR BLACK
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ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

September 24, 2015

USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Sunergie's Travis IDEA SBIR grant application.

As an urban designer, planner, architect, educator and author who has been programming and building projects in Central Texas since 1967, I believe Travis IDEA has the potential to establish a major international precedent. Locally, there are many good plans for sustainability that I have worked extensively on, including Imagine Austin, Envision Central Texas, Trust for Public Land's Greenprint as well as Travis County's Land, Water and Transportation plan. Travis IDEA would be a wonderful way to help achieve those plans.

This innovative vision being developed by Patrick Van Haren involves creating a forward-thinking community based on "agricultural urbanism," with water conservation, soil regeneration and cooperative food production being among the priorities. I particularly like how the vision reverses the typical suburban development mentality, i.e. 75% of the land on site will be preserved and only 25% will be developed. The development itself will be a TOD situated on CapMetro's prospective "Green Line," which will give residents the opportunity to reduce the vehicle miles they travel by automobile and, consequently, reduce the development's carbon emissions footprint. Also, when implemented, it will be a self-sustaining community that preserves land while providing a return on investment, becoming *the* example for paradigm change for responsible development of rural land.

As you can see, I am enthusiastic in my support of the concept being proposed by Sunergie.

Sincerely,



Sinclair Black F.A.I.A.