

La Crosse Common Council and appropriate committees

400 La Crosse Street

La Crosse, WI 54601

To the City of La Crosse Common Council and appropriate committees.

Kratt Lumber has been in existence at 1714 16th Street south since 1948. That same year the company purchased the adjoining property at 1720 16th Street south and has used it as an undeveloped parking lot since then. Our original buildings still stand today and though we have made improvements over the years it is getting harder and harder to repair them. Kratt Lumber Co. was the anchor around which this neighborhood was built, every other structure around was built after Kratt Lumber with quite a few being supplied by Kratt Lumber Co. As a multi-generational business in La Crosse surviving the last 73 years we would prefer to stay in our location. Our largest hurdle is that we are growing steadily and need a better storage system for our products and services. This zoning change will also help us alleviate our construction issues of running the day to day operations while construction is happening. We would like to completely raze all buildings on the 1714 property and replace them with new buildings to include a larger show room, offices, and better lumber storage.

These two properties have always been one property but with the current zoning of R1-residential and a conditional use permit at 1720 16th street south we cannot accommodate the change to what we are proposing be done. Depending on the cost estimates we would either put a garage on the property that would serve as a temporary office then storage while we demolish the other structures or we would potentially move our offices to this site.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Torgerud – President Kratt Lumber Co.

Mark R. Torgerud – Vice President Kratt Lumber Co.