

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Lea Butterfield <butterfieldlea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Subject:** UWL Ramp - rezoning. Agenda item 24-0068

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing today to express my support for the UWL parking ramp. I don't believe I'll have anything dazzling to say to change the trajectory but I would still like to voice my support to rezone for the ramp.

I went to school at UWL back in 1998 and then started working here full time in 2001. I have been at this university for my entire adult life. I've had to drive to be here so I've held a permit for over 20 years and have lived the whole UWL parking experience. I have worked in the UWL Police Department for half of that time which means I've been a part of the Parking Department as well. I see and hear the need for parking everyday that I come to work.

I know parking is a hot topic for La Crosse, even outside of UWL. I understand the idea and concept of being more bike friendly, environmentally friendly. However, wanting something to be a certain way doesn't fit the need of what the reality is. UWL is a strong University and in order to stay strong, we need the enrollment. And right now, that enrollment needs parking. Maybe in time we can try to become more like Madison but it won't happen overnight and it can't happen by limiting the need that exists now. Telling people they can't drive isn't going to make them magically ride their bikes either. I have fielded phone calls from parents inquiring about whether or not 1st year students can bring a car to campus and before I can even give them an answer, I get their argument for why their kid needs to be able to drive. It is a factor in their decision to come to our campus.

UWL supports the La Crosse community in so many ways. Our students are here to earn an education; to better themselves and to join the workforce. They also help support the local economy. The university itself employs people in our community, and I personally live here in La Crosse to work at UWL and I would like to stay here.

Thank you for your time and please consider supporting the rezoning.

Lea Butterfield