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Chairperson of the Observatory Civic,
60 Trill Rd, Observatory 7925

14 June 2021

Dear Chairperson:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the Observatory Civic Association's (OCA) decision to take the River Club environmental assessment and rezoning application to the High Court on review under PAJA.

Over the years, the OCA has demonstrated a commitment to actively engaging with concerted efforts to protect the environmental and heritage value of the Two Rivers Urban Park (TRUP). This work has persisted despite the property developers' determination to pursue environmentally destructive interventions in relation to the riverine system and the flood plain of the TRUP area. The OCA has been steadfast in opposing the River Club environmental assessment and land rezoning which will have considerable long-term detrimental consequences for the TRUP.

As a researcher on environmental issues, I have absolutely confidence in the carefully considered approach of the Observatory Civic Association in relation to the protection of TRUP. I therefore fully support the OCA's initiative to take on review the poor policy decisions that lend uncritical support the proposed development in the TRUP. Such decisions will not only have irreversible detrimental environmental consequences for the TRUP and the wider Cape Town area, but will also contribute towards undermining social cohesion and trust amongst the descendants of indigenous First Nations people, who believe that the development poses a serious threat to their cultural heritage and is a violation of their cultural memory in relation to this extremely important historical site.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Steven Robins



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