



2217 Stantonsburg Road ▪ Greenville, NC 27834 ▪ (252) 752-7101

Chris Austin  
North Carolina Housing Finance Agency  
3508 Bush Street  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Mr. Austin:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide feedback on the first draft of the 2016 QAP. After reading the draft, we noticed that the Agency intends to award points for shopping and pharmacy separately. Given this change, the list of stores that meet the shopping requirement needs to be expanded. Logical additions might include Sears, TJ Maxx, Ollie's Bargain Outlet, Dillard's, Kohl's, Macy's, J.C. Penny, and Belk. For example, Sears provides affordable access to a wide variety of general merchandise from clothing to home goods to tools and auto parts. In addition, all of these stores add value to potential sites by providing employment opportunities to residents.

It might be argued that department stores like Macy's and Belk are of a higher price point and therefore would not be affordable to our residents. However, retail centers anchored by such department stores always include many smaller merchants as well. Thus, the presence of stores like Macy's and Belk is a good indicator of a wide variety of retail options. Additionally, I would respectfully suggest that if Whole Foods and Fresh Market meet the grocery requirement, there is no reason stores in the shopping category should be excluded based on price point. If there are other reasons the stores I listed have not previously been included, please help us understand the Agency's thought process so that we can craft better suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Wooten'.

Elizabeth Wooten  
Development Associate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Taft'.

Thomas F. Taft, Sr.  
Manager