

June 30, 2025

Dear City of Detroit Historic District Commissioners,

I am a fifty-year resident of the Lafayette Park Historic District neighborhood. I am writing to state my strong opposition to Detroit Thermal's revised application for a steam project in the Lafayette Park Historic District. I oppose the proposed project, since it will irrevocably damage my neighborhood's historic landscape, which is a central component of my neighborhood's National Historic Place and National Historic Landmark designation and is not justifiable or appropriate when alternative routes are available.

I ask the Commissioners to consider the following points before your vote at your special meeting on July 2, 2025.

- Detroit Thermal's resubmitted application is inaccurate and incomplete. It contains at least 21 errors where 50-foot mature trees are missing, mislabeled as shrubs, or under-identified in size
- Detroit Thermal never met with any Lafayette Park Historic District residents for input on its latest plans, even though they were directed to do so by the Historic District Commission at their May 14th meeting.
- This project will have a significant adverse effect on our landscape. It will negatively impact at least 22 mature trees, and any future underground maintenance will no doubt continue having a destructive impact on our grounds and landscaping. **It cannot be replaced.**
- The Caldwell landscape was designed to complement the Mies architecture, and it took 60 years of investment and maintenance from the residents of this historic neighborhood to develop and become the beautiful, lush foliage that surrounds our homes today. **It cannot be replaced.**
- This mature landscape gives the collection of our homes even more quality and adds value to the dwelling experience for those fortunate enough to reside here. **It cannot be replaced.**

I am asking the Detroit Historic District Commission to remain true to your stated purpose, which is to ensure the **preservation of historically and culturally significant areas of the City** and reject Detroit Thermal's application and prevent Detroit Thermal from irreparably damaging the Lafayette Park Historic District.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to serving the residents of Detroit and preserving the city's historic places.

Sincerely,



Isaiah McKinnon  
Nicolet Cooperative Resident