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Housing proposal is supported

To the editor:

On Aug. 6, I attended a site tour of Linden Ponds and Lexington Technology Park hosted by Patriot Partners.

As many Town Meeting members may know Patriot Partners is proposing to develop a senior retirement community and life sciences campus on the Landlocked Parcel. By attending the tour, I saw first-hand what this type of development would look like for Burlington.

Walking through Linden Ponds in Hingham, I noticed the natural landscape that is integrated throughout the community with plenty of walking trails and biking paths. Truthfully, you would never think that Linden Ponds holds 1,750 units for seniors.

My wife and I were so impressed with this because we know that if Erickson Retirement Communities builds on the landlocked parcel, the new development will have to incorporate the beautiful natural landscape of the existing forest.

During the tour, my wife and I also realized that the Erickson model for senior housing is something we can afford. At first, we

were taken aback by the numbers, but I was assured once the development team reviewed the pricing and showed us the spacious units we could afford.

Without taking the time to learn about Erickson and how the pricing works, I really don't think anyone can confidently say that they cannot afford it. You have to go on the tour to learn about this.

Additionally, Linden Ponds is a community of independent seniors who are active throughout the campus. There's a pool, dozens of community clubs, full-service dining, a fitness center, volunteering opportunities, and an on-site medical center. The only thing everyone on the tour kept wishing was that this beautiful place was located in Burlington because when we retire, we want to stay close to our families and the town we've lived in for more than 40 years.

I want to encourage all Town Meeting members to attend the tours hosted by Patriot Partners and see what the proposal is all about. We need more senior housing in Burlington, and by taking this tour, you'll get a glimpse of just what could be in store for us.

Thank you,
Richard Wing
Town Meeting Member,
Precinct 5