



May 5, 2022

Gaston Aquatics Board,

On behalf of the Gaston Business Association (GBA), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the development of the Gaston Regional Aquatics Center (GRAC). The recent selection of a site in the town of Dallas is an exciting next step toward realizing this important economic development project.

The GBA is a business-driven organization dedicated to fostering a prosperous and inclusive Gaston County economy. We have just over 600 private and public members, from entrepreneurs and small businesses to the largest employers in the county. We focus our efforts on strategic initiatives vital to our county's future.

The GBA has identified the development of the proposed GRAC as a strategic initiative worthy of support, being highly beneficial to Gaston County and its citizens. The facility will host training for local aquatic teams and competitive swim meets, attracting teams and visitors from the region. It will also make available swimming proficiency lessons for underserved populations, increase the effectiveness of first responder rescue training, and provide a much-needed location for health and rehabilitation purposes. In addition, GRAC patrons will generate support for local restaurants, hotels, and retailers, especially on weekends, which is vital to our economy.

On a broader level, the GRAC has the potential to positively impact the quality of life in Gaston County. As part of our work, the GBA is focused on actively promoting and building awareness for the exceptional recreational opportunities throughout the county. This project stands as an excellent example of such a prospect.

Thank you for that opportunity to offer this letter of support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Patrick T. Mumford
President & CEO