Amazon Office of Economic Development C/O Site Manager Golden 2121 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Seattle, WA 98121

The Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware (RDC) is pleased to partner with the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware on this response to the Amazon HO2 RFP.

The RDC was created in 1995 by the State of Delaware to oversee the development along the Brandywine and Christina Rivers, and is focused on creating economic vitality while enhancing the environment, encouraging historic preservation, and increasing public access. Through targeted and leveraged investments, RDC creates employment and residential development while promoting education, the arts, recreation and tourism.

Riverfront Wilmington has emerged as hot property for real estate development of all kinds. Dilapidated warehouses have been replaced with restaurants, shops, and a regional conference facility. Vacant historic buildings have been preserved and restored to serve as corporate headquarters for major employers such as AAA Mid-Atlantic, Capital One, Barclaycard USA, and Navient. A shoreline once strewn with litter and debris is now lush with native plantings. Crumbling parking lots have been converted into parkland and spacious gathering areas for concerts, festivals, and community celebrations. Every acre of the redevelopment area has undergone environmental improvements to accommodate revitalization efforts, enhance the landscape and restore the ecology. A scenic two mile Riverwalk, bike trails and new roadways are providing access to the once-hidden beauty of the meandering Christina River. Please visit our website at http://riverfrontwilm.com/rdc-realizing-vision/ to view the transformation.

Riverfront Wilmington offers all the describable amenities of an urban setting combined with the quality-of-life benefits of a suburban office park. Companies are choosing to locate on the Riverfront for many reasons, including:

- The close proximity to transportation, with Interstate 95 and the Amtrak train station located within one mile of all Riverfront locations, and the Philadelphia International Airport less than a half-hour away;
- A population density that supports retail establishments as well as workforce requirements, with more than 6 million people residing within a 50 mile radius;
- Convenient amenities for employees, including numerous restaurants, shops and cultural attractions within easy walking distance;
- A safe and clean environment, featuring roving security ambassadors and maintenance and staff;
- Ample surface parking;
- Plus all the excitement that accompanies a young and energetic workforce, the spirit of entrepreneurialism, and the pure enjoyment of living and working along a scenic riverfront.

Since the RDC's inception, almost \$400 million in public dollars has been invested in the redevelopment effort along the Christina River, primarily by the State of Delaware, with resources also from the City of Wilmington and New Castle County. This investment has leveraged over \$1 billion in private investment along the Riverfront.

We would welcome the opportunity to have Amazon call our Riverfront its home!

Sincerely,

Glam H. McClinchey
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**Executive Director**