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Senate of Pennsylvania

July 20, 2020

Barron Hetherington, Chairman
Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners
401 North Second Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dear Chairman Hetherington:

I am writing to you today regarding the County's interest in locating a possible Pre-Release Center at the former Giant Food Store in Pottsville, as recently reported in the local media and strongly opposed by the general public.

As you know, many of us have been working together have been working with the City of Pottsville's elected and appointed officials, the Pottsville Redevelopment Authority, the Pottsville Area Development Corporation and more than 70 community stakeholders in revitalizing the downtown business district. Our goal: to bring back the City as a hub for services, entertainment and restaurants. County use of this site would be a major setback to all of our efforts.

Two separate \$1Million state grant investments are now assisting important projects identified by well-attended public stakeholder meetings to directly support zoning changes, demolition plans, property purchases, parking garage construction. New federal grants have been invested in the PADCO revolving loan fund to assist new and expanding business plans, business development and marketing/programing events.

Another highlight is the development of an investor lead group seeking quality overnight accommodations for the region—including our state park facilities and American's Oldest Brewery, Yuengling. This has been a long-time goal: A new hotel to serve our region and improve the local tax base.

I ask you to reject any purchase of the Giant Food Store property for the Pre-Release Center or other County use. As you know, I stand prepared to assist you in finding another site for this purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


DAVID G. ARGALL
State Senator
29th District

DGA:cv

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