



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**

Save the past. Enrich the future.

February 3, 2015

Chairman L. Stephen Brescia
Orange County Legislature
73 Railroad Avenue
Montgomery, New York 12549

Dear Chairman Brescia:

It has come to our attention that the Orange County Executive's veto of Local Law 13 concerning an alternative development plan for the Orange County Government Center in Goshen will be on the Legislature's agenda for its February 5, 2015 meeting. On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and our members, I urge you and your colleagues in the legislature to continue to work for a better and more sensitive solution for your landmark Government Center than that currently proposed.

While the bipartisan committee's evaluation and the decision of the County Executive were done with deliberation, the fact remains that there are alternatives to the proposed partial demolition and drastic remodeling of the original design. The ill-advised decision to close the center has created the false urgency that now drives decisions concerning its future and is preventing further negotiations with developers that might address concerns from the Goshen Village leadership and meet long term financial responsibilities for the county.

The National Trust is a privately funded nonprofit organization working to save America's historic places. The Orange County Government Center is an international landmark, an irreplaceable architectural presence for the community and a building that can fulfill its lofty goal as a center for and symbol of ordinary people. That it can fulfill its potential either through adaptive reuse, public-private partnership or more appropriate rehabilitation is in the hands of the Orange County Legislature.

With serious negotiations an adaptive plan could be developed. With more sensitive builder and architectural review of the current scheme a plan that preserves the integrity of the original structure could be formulated. The National Trust offers any assistance we can provide to help in your deliberations and negotiations. While this issue has been in need of a solution for several years, it is clear that two more months of study and negotiation may lead to a solution that will best serve your constituency for another 45 years.

Thank you for your kind attention to these remarks. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie K. Meeks".

Stephanie K. Meeks

Cc: County Executive, Stephen Neuhaus, 15 Matthews Street Goshen, NY 10924

Stephanie K. Meeks | PRESIDENT

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