



January 15, 2025

Board of Supervisors North Manheim Township 303 Manheim Road, Pottsville, PA 17901

RE: Mixed use project, North Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, PA

Dear Board of Supervisors,

From the beginning, it was our hope that the community would ultimately decide that the economic benefits from our project would outweigh the negatives, and the community would ultimately support it. We have heard from representatives of the School District that year-in and year-out, no-win choices must be made between either raising taxes or cutting spending, services and programs. But we all know there is ANOTHER option. Economic development projects, like the mixed-use business park project we are proposing on the Biever property, can and will expand the non-residential tax base, provide relief for your School District, and, at the same time, create new jobs and bring new business opportunities and economic growth into your community.

Of course, we always anticipated that there would be concerns about our project from the community. We do not take legitimate concerns lightly, and we were looking forward to and were preparing to work with your community and our future neighbors closely and productively. This is why, frankly, we have been taking our time to bring this project to any public meetings.

Unfortunately, a group from your community is already fighting against us, and we have not even had a chance to present our plans yet. Did we expect opposition? Yes. But did we expect things to get this vicious and ugly so quickly? No.

Meanwhile, we had hoped we would have the chance to meet with other members and stakeholders in your community that might consider our project reasonably and, perhaps, ultimately support it, given the economic benefits it could provide for your community. Unfortunately, we have not been given this chance. Given how extreme things have already gotten and given that we do not have a good sense for how much support there might be for our project in your community, we have come to the conclusion that pursuing this project any further would no longer be productive, and for that reason, we are no longer planning to meet with the community or submit plans at this time.

Respectfully yours,

ROSSROADS COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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