



March 16, 2023

Mr. Kenneth Kovalchik
Town Planner
Planning Department
Town Hall, Route 20
P.O. Box 339
Guilderland, NY 12084-0339

Dear Mr. Kovalchik,

On behalf of the Capital Region Chamber, I again write to inform you that the Chamber strongly supports the Pyramid Management Group's proposed construction and location of the region's only Costco, on land already owned by Pyramid. We believe that this is the perfect use of this site. I have stayed on top of the development within the town and noticed that the site plan review associated with a special use permit for this proposal is on the agenda for the March 22nd meeting of the Planning Board. This project has been under a planning and review period for several years, and it is now time to move this development forward.

As you know, the Capital Region Chamber represents over 2,600 businesses and organizations from throughout the region that employ more than 150,000 area residents. Our Chamber's membership is diverse. We represent for-profits and not-for-profits; large corporations and small family-owned businesses.

Over the years, Crossgates has become a premiere tourist destination by providing visitors with a balanced mix of shopping, dining, entertainment and lodging options. By bringing in Costco, Pyramid is providing the diversity that the Capital Region both values and demands. Pyramid has developed this plan deliberately and with input from stakeholders throughout the county and the Town of Guilderland. And Pyramid has listened. They have thoughtfully revised their plans to mitigate concerns and they have enhanced the project for the betterment of our community. Pyramid has acted as a very responsible and responsive member of our Capital Region community.

The Chamber cannot ignore the tremendous impact this project will have in terms of our region's economy and tax revenue. The Costco development will create 142 new jobs and over \$1.8 million in new sales tax revenue in Albany County. It will also create 187 new jobs and over \$157,000 in new sales tax revenue for the Town of Guilderland. Additionally, the town and the Guilderland Central School District will realize over \$500,000 in new property tax revenue. The Chamber fully supports development projects that create jobs and broaden the tax base for our municipal governments. This would be a tremendous win for Capital Region job seekers and taxpayers.

The Capital Region Chamber strongly supports the proposed Costco. As the Vice President of Government Relations for the Capital Region Chamber and a resident of the Town of Guilderland, I respectfully request that this development project receives swift approval. Thank you for your consideration of the Capital Region Chamber's perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom O'Connor', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas J. O'Connor
Vice President, Government Relations

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ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION, ONE REGION.**

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