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## Planning Issue

1 message

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**geiger121@aol.com** <geiger121@aol.com>

Sat, May 16, 2020 at 3:54 PM

Reply-To: geiger121@aol.com

To: "Kovalchikk@togny.org" <Kovalchikk@togny.org>

Dear Mr. Kovalchik: The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has had a notable impact on the retail business. The fallout will continue even after society "opens up."

In our area, the Crossgates Mall located in Guilderland, NY is home to several stores such as J. Crew and Penny's which declared bankruptcy this week. In light of strong potential of significant vacant space in that mall, it may be an opportunity to revision the place and use of malls in a post pandemic environment.

For example, Costco is slated to build a large store on the grounds adjacent to the Crossgate Mall. In anticipation of this construction, many beautiful trees were uprooted (they are still lying there decaying before our eyes). Perhaps instead of putting another big box store on that property, Costco could commission the vacant store space in the Mall. It would be a win for the environment in many ways: avoid future disruption of the natural habitat, re-purpose existing retail space, etc.

There would still be a need for construction jobs aiding the local economy.

Where the trees were felled, regrowth could be planned perhaps as part of a youth corp project, school education program, college environmental training program, etc.

An opportunity exists to protect our environment, revision our use of existing space and provide learning programs for our area youth.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

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