

April 21, 2020

Mr. Ken Kovalchik, Town Planner
P.O. Box 339
Guilderland, N.Y. 12084

Re: Costco project

Dear Ken;

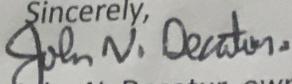
I own two properties in town and pay way more in taxes then I want too and I don't see the school district letting up on spending. Like many people I have been following the proposed development of land near Crossgates in recent weeks and months. While there are several important points on both sides, I think it's important to remind people that the town has been thoughtfully addressing the issue of smart growth for some years.

Multiple administrations and town boards have understood the likelihood of continued growth in Guilderland. Through intelligent planning they have established guidelines which set parameters on future building and development in our town. This was accomplished to ensure that any future development would not have a negative impact on Town and its operations.

We should be proud to have elected officials who had the foresight to plan for future growth, and this has been done by those on both sides of the political aisle. I would encourage anyone who is not familiar with the Western Corridor Study and the Transit Oriented District to spend some time investigating. With this kind of planning in place and knowing that these proposed projects fit within the established guidelines, this should make for an easy decision by Planning and Town Board. The Costco project will have a positive impact on our community and also foster competition. Our residents should be happy that we have forward-thinking officials who were and are prepared to address these types of projects.

Furthermore, given all that we are facing these days, we WILL loss businesses in the Town due to the COVID-19 crisis. If we aren't thinking that way, we should be. And we should be protecting growth that will be more important now than ever. Before we let this development slip away, let's think about what it will do: increase growth in our town's tax base, help our schools and children out, and support the county in which we reside as well. I don't see how any of that doesn't make sense. As an example I was in Connecticut last weekend when golf courses were closed in NYS. On the way home my friend who is a Costco member wanted to stop at the Costco in Springfield, MA to get gas. The price of unleaded gas was \$1.39 a gallon, I paid \$2.19 a gallon in NYS. We need Costco to bring the price of gas and many other items down. Pyramid has been a great owner to the Town and County in regard to helping with taxes. The recent hotels they built look beautiful and are well maintained. The new CDTA drop off and pick up is another example of a successful project.

I hope that you will approve these projects, as they are within the guidelines you have carefully constructed.

Sincerely,

John N. Decatur, owner of property at 6747 Fuller Station & 5303 Times Circle, both in Town.