

Rhonda Childs,
President
489-7771

Mary C. Phillips,
Treasurer
438-1629

CONCERNED CITIZENS AGAINST CROSSGATES

Directors

Gregory Bell
Rhonda Childs
Drew Hartzell
Anita Kershaw
Mary C. Phillips
Don Reeb

P.O. Box 5393
Albany, N.Y. 12205

January 1, 1980

Dear Colleague:

You probably know that the Pyramid Corporation of Syracuse proposes to build the Pyramid-Crossgates Mall, a large regional shopping center, in the Pine Bush about a half mile west of the SUNY campus. This mall would be about the size of Colonie Center and Northway Mall combined.

There are a number of reasons to oppose this proposed mall. The mall would greatly increase traffic on the adjacent roads, and thereby affect the desirability of the residential neighborhoods near the SUNY campus. It would destroy a 150-200 acre section of undeveloped Pine Bush, including 16 acres of State-protected wetlands. The proposed mall would create a surfeit of retail shopping facilities in the Albany area and would severely affect rehabilitation of retailing in already existing urban commercial areas, such as downtown Albany and Schenectady. Crossgates is the kind of project which has led to the drafting of a proposed federal policy resisting such malls because of their negative impacts on urban central business districts.

Joseph Cleary, Vice President of TIAA-CREF has told CCAC members that the financing of mortgages for Pyramid Mall properties have been purchased by TIAA in the past. While no commitment exists at this early stage for the Pyramid-Crossgates Mall in Guilderland, it is highly likely that Pyramid Corporation will ask TIAA to purchase this mortgage. If you are concerned about this, write to Mr. Cleary at 730 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017 expressing your questions about the advisability of such an action by TIAA.

The Crossgates proposed mall will soon be undergoing examination at the State Environmental Quality Review Act Hearings, under the direction of the State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Hearings are expected to begin in February. The Pyramid Corporation's case is presented in a 1400 page Environmental Impact Statement, which is available in the reserve room of the SUNYA library. Their arguments are, of course, self-serving, and a number of persons and groups will attempt to rebut them at the Hearings. If you have any particular expertise which you feel may be helpful in this effort, we would appreciate your help.


The main reason for this letter is that we need your help in supporting

the cost of capable legal representation at the State Hearings. CONCERNED CITIZENS AGAINST CROSSGATES, the Sierra Club and other parties opposed to the mall have retained Joel Sachs of White Plains to provide that representation. Sachs is an expert on environmental law; he has given lectures throughout the state and nation on environmental law and on the State Environmental Quality Review Act. He is also currently representing the Sierra Club in Federal Court in an attempt to stop a Pyramid Mall project near Utica.

We need to raise money to support the cost of the defense at the State Hearings and any necessary subsequent appeals. Pyramid probably has spent several hundred thousand dollars on their case.

Please help us in our effort. This is a local fight and we must get widespread support from concerned Albany area residents if we are to have any chance to stop this mall.

Please send your donation directly to CONCERNED CITIZENS AGAINST CROSSGATES or to one of us. Thank you.



Lindsay N. Childs
Department of Mathematics
and Statistics
ES 117



Drew Hartzell
Department of Music
PAC 304



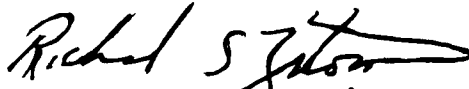
Donald Reeb
Department of Economics
BA 127



BA 125b



Bio 111



Bio 348



ES 136