To: The Essex County Board of Supervisors

7551 Court Street

Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Re: The Cornell Cooperative Extension Building

Dear sirs:

The building in question is under 100 years old, built with care and solid materials, many no longer available today. Do you think the philanthropic Mr. Horace Moses expected his gift to last less than 100 years ? Since 1969 I have lived in two 200 year old houses—one built in 1781 and now one of around 1820. My house still stands and, yes, it has wi-fi and tunes flowing from room to room. There is a reason the CCE Building is on the Historic Register. It was made to last. Aesthetically it surpasses anything built “for practical purposes” today. It is part of the layering that weaves the fabric of life, memories and associations of a town. Its placing marks a gateway to the Village and enhances the also historic Fairgrounds that it was designed to complement.

It would be regrettable if the Members of the Board were not to recognize the Building’s significance and wish to simply erase the lack of stewardship, responsibility and maintenance that has led to sorely overdue restoration. Need I add the lack of concern for the environment and the “carbon footprint” in throwing away a perfectly viable building ? Are you planning to dump it in the Landfill ?

Please reconsider the options and study the evaluations of professionals who have themselves studied the present state of the building.

Respectfully,

Simone S. Stephens

18 May, 2021