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Mr. Thomas W. Brown, President
Carlynton School District
435 King's Highway
Carnegie, PA 15106

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing you at the request of one of your constituents.

As a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Pennsylvania's traditional towns and countryside, Save Our Land Save Our Towns Inc. has tried to encourage the preservation of walkable neighborhood schools. We believe neighborhood schools help retain the health and vitality of traditional neighborhoods. This is in keeping with the ten Keystone Principles for economic development adopted by Gov. Rendell's Economic Development Cabinet in 2005.

In 2007, we published a brochure sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association in which Gov. Rendell's top cabinet officers encourage all school districts to consider the merits of neighborhood schools.

As part of our work, we are happy to make available to you the services of Landmark Design Associates of Pittsburgh to help the Carlynton School District evaluate the condition of its Crafton and Carnegie elementary schools. Ellis Schmidlapp, president of LDA, has overseen the renovation of classroom buildings for the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, and, more specific to your case, two historic elementary schools for the Brentwood School District and three historic elementary schools for the Crawford Central School District in Meadville.

We propose that Mr. Schmidlapp tour the two elementary schools in Crafton and Carnegie with appropriate school personnel and provide a brief written evaluation of the potential of the two schools to be renovated to 21st Century educational standards.

This would be done at no cost or obligation to the Carlynton School District. Attached is a letter Mr. Schmidlapp wrote regarding the Roosevelt Middle School in Erie as an example of the kind of evaluation he could provide. His evaluation for Carlynton might be a little more detailed than this one.

If you or anyone with the Carlynton School District has any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

Best regards,

Thomas Hylton
President