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documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the
Modern Movement

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February 4, 2015

Chairman L. Stephen Brescia
Orange County Legislature
15 Matthews Street
Goshen, NY 10924
Email: legislature@orangecountygov.com

RE: Orange County Government Center

Dear Chairman Brescia and Members of the Legislature:

We understand that an agenda item at your February 5, 2015 meeting is regarding the future of the Orange County Government Center. We strongly believe that reusing the Government Center for continued civic use or a new use is a technologically and financially viable option, and urge you to keep all options open for a reuse alternative.

Completed in 1971, the Government Center by master architect Paul Rudolph is an excellent example of his sculptural, multi-leveled Brutalist buildings that played with volume, texture and light. It is recognized nationally and internationally as a bold modern landmark and appreciation for it continues to grow.

We understand the Legislature has practical and financial responsibilities to its citizens, and we appreciate the efforts to seek proposals for alternatives to demolition. As practicing architects, planners, historians, and preservationists, we are well aware of the challenges in rehabilitating and reusing difficult buildings, both modern and traditional. We have also seen how successfully rehabilitated historic buildings have brought appreciation and recognition to their owners and become cultural tourism destinations and economic catalysts for their communities.

We believe you have an opportunity here to demonstrate your leadership by saving a distinguished part of your history while pursuing the more fiscally and environmentally responsible path. We offer our assistance in developing an appropriate rehabilitation project that respects the architectural significance of the Government Center and will ultimately benefit Orange County as well as the Village of Goshen.

Docomomo US is the only national organization devoted exclusively to the preservation, understanding and celebration of Modern architecture and modernist design. It is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization and includes of a union of 17 regional chapters and 5 friend organizations that share its members' knowledge of and enthusiasm for Modern architecture and modernist design. Docomomo US was founded in the United States in 1995 and will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2015.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at 212-721-9502 or liz.waytkus@docomomo-us.org with any questions or additional information.

Sincerely,



Liz Waytkus
Executive Director