



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

October 31, 2011

Seneca County Commissioners
David G. Sauber, Sr., President
Benjamin E. Nutter, Vice-President
Jeffrey D. Wagner
111 Madison Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

Dear Commissioners:

Mindful and respectful of the job each one of you do—balancing priorities and making the best use of taxpayer dollars in a time of economic hardship—I am writing to urge you to put off, for another day, the irreversible decision to tear down the historic Seneca County Courthouse, a landmark that has stood in the center of Tiffin for nearly 130 years.

I ask you to do this knowing how you and your predecessors have taken pains to do the right thing for your citizens in the matter of whether to preserve and rehabilitate the building. I know that this has been a prolonged public debate that has divided folks, of goodwill, on both sides of the issue. You have shown patience and you have listened to those seeking to find a renewed purpose for the building. I know that the old courthouse, despite its proud past, has, for too many years, become an eyesore. We all know its present condition keeps it from being the proud symbol people wish for Seneca County.

There is reason to believe that, one day, the Seneca County Courthouse can be given a new life. If it is destroyed now that possibility will be lost—forever. No historic Ohio courthouse has been razed in 40 years and not one on the National Register of Historic Places has ever been torn down in our state. I appeal to you to bide your time and let ways be sought that, in due course, can improve and renew the building, an important part of our shared Ohio heritage.

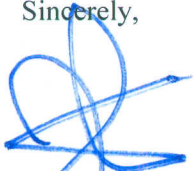
There are options on the table that are worth exploring and perhaps new ones can be developed. We're only held back by limits on our creativity. Given that the courthouse is a product of inspired creativity, let's see what solutions can be found.

Times are difficult for families, businesses and governmental agencies at all levels. While I cannot predict how, someday, a final plan revitalizing the courthouse may emerge, I think wisdom dictates preserving the option of making good use of this solid, if long neglected, building. If you vote to destroy it now you will forego any such possibility and an important Ohio landmark will be lost to the ages.

Please set aside demolition plans for the time being and allow private citizens to fund the costs and responsibilities of mothballing (as well as securing it to keep children and others out, a critical and urgent need) until a day comes that would permit a better future for this once grand Courthouse.

Thanks to each of you for your public service and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John R. Kasich
Governor