

## COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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Barbara B. Cross  
*Chairman*

Jim Hertzler  
*Vice Chairman*

Gary Eichelberger  
*Secretary*

November 8, 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Cumberland County Board of Commissioners  
717.240.6150**

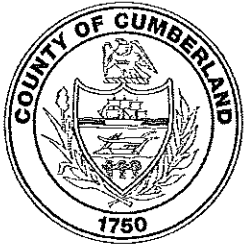
### Commissioners Urge Retention of Full Law Degree Program in Carlisle

Carlisle, PA – At their public meeting today, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners called upon the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority Board to deny any formal Waiver or Amendment to the Authority's 2008 Subrecipient Agreement with the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. The Commissioners also called upon Philip McConnaughay, Dean of the Law School, to form a community based advisory group to seek alternatives to the Dean's proposal to move the first-year Juris Doctor (JD) program from Carlisle to Penn State's main campus.

The Commissioners said they felt strongly that Penn State should honor the commitment it made in 2008 to operate a full three-year JD Program at the Carlisle campus through 2025 as a condition for receiving \$25 million in State taxpayer funds.

Attached are copies of the Board of Commissioners' letters to the Chairman of the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority and Dean McConnaughay.

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Mr. Louis R. Martin, Chairman  
Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority  
114 N. Hanover Street, Suite 104  
Carlisle, PA 17013-2445

Dear Mr. Martin:

First, please allow us this opportunity to commend you and the other dedicated volunteer members of the Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority Board for your scheduling of a special public meeting on September 27, 2012 to hear the proposal of Dean Philip McConaughay on the future of the Dickinson School of Law and to listen to feedback from the community at large.

Your action provided for valuable public input on what, necessarily, must be an open and public process.

We say that, because, quite frankly, it was \$25 million in State taxpayer dollars -- public funds -- that Penn State University accepted after it signed, on July 31, 2008, the Subrecipient Agreement with the County's Redevelopment Authority and which stipulated that Penn State would operate "at the Carlisle Campus a fully accredited, full time Juris Doctor (JD) program, including first, second and third-year classes through June 30, 2025..."

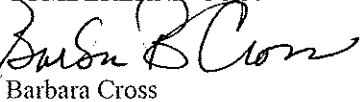
While we understand many of the Dean's points relative to the current state of the economy, a national sag in law school applications, and the need to consider alternatives to maintain the future viability of this historic institution, we find it difficult to understand how moving all first year JD classes to Penn State's main campus would not harm the JD program here.

With an agreement that granted it \$25 million in taxpayer funds, we believe Penn State, and the law school it now operates, has a responsibility to Carlisle and the entire Cumberland County community to explore other alternatives to the Dean's proposal and fully honor the legal contract it signed just four years ago.


As such, we respectfully recommend that any formal request to the Redevelopment Authority to waive or amend the 2008 Subrecipient Agreement be denied. Thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for your service to the people of Cumberland County.

Sincerely,

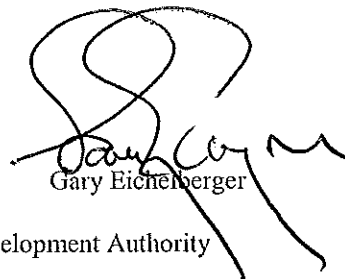
CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Barbara Cross

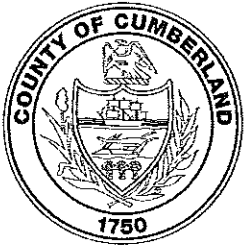


Jim Hertzler



Gary Eichelberger

Cc: Ben Laudermilch, Executive Director, Cumberland County Redevelopment Authority  
Redevelopment Authority Board Members  
Honorable Tom Corbett, Governor of PA  
Cumberland County Legislative Delegation  
Carlisle Borough Mayor & Council  
Mitchell B. Klein, President, The Dickinson School of Law Alumni Society



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November 8, 2012

Dean Philip J. McConnaughay  
Penn State Dickinson School of Law  
371 W. South St.  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Dear Dean McConnaughay:

At the outset, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for hosting the County Redevelopment Authority's special public meeting on September 27, 2012 at the Dickinson School of Law's Lewis Katz Hall and your willingness to fully share with the public -- and take input on -- your suggestions for maintaining the viability of the dual campus law school program at Carlisle and at Penn State.

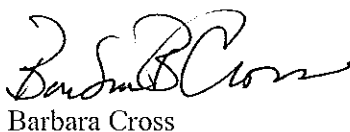
While we appreciate many of the points you've made relative to the current state of the economy and the sag in law school applications nationwide, we have come to the conclusion that alternatives other than eliminating the first year Juris Doctor program at the Carlisle campus should be explored.

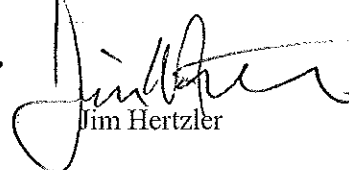
We have, therefore, today sent the enclosed letter to members of our County's Redevelopment Authority Board requesting that they deny any formal Waiver or Amendment to the Subrecipient Agreement that Penn State signed with the Authority in July of 2008.

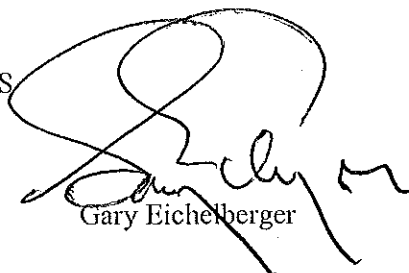
Going forward, we would respectfully recommend that you give serious consideration to the formation of a community-based advisory group, consisting of Dickinson School of Law Alumni and other stakeholders, for the purpose of exploring all options to keep the law degree program at the historic Carlisle campus strong.

Sincerely,

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
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Gary Eichelberger

Enclosure