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April 19, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Rachel Bryson, Communications Director
717.706.0001

County Takes Action to Join Efforts to Save McCormick Farm

Carlisle, Pa. – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners voted today to file a petition to join the effort to save the McCormick Farm. In a unanimous decision, the Commissioners authorized the filing of an “amicus curiae” brief in Cumberland County Court, objecting to the Cumberland Valley School District’s use of eminent domain to acquire the preserved McCormick Farm property.

The Commissioners, the County’s Agriculture Land Preservation Board, the Cumberland County Planning Commission and many other government and non-profit organizations, have previously expressed concerns to the CV School Board about the board’s actions to purchase the property. In letters sent earlier this year, the Commissioners stated that while they are sympathetic to the challenges before the school board, they are also “deeply concerned that the school district’s proposed action appears to unnecessarily pit one public purpose, or interest, against another.”

Other concerns raised by the County include that the District’s plan for the property will be inconsistent with the County’s Comprehensive Plan, which lists the McCormick farm as a preserved piece of land of historical significance. The farm also has significant agricultural value, with 93% of its soils classified as “prime.” Condemnation of such a valuable agriculture property for the purpose of developing additional educational facilities is believed to be an “unprecedented” action not only in Cumberland County, but also in all of Pennsylvania. This action could potentially “erode the public trust in land preservation initiatives and discourage farmers and others to preserve their farms,” according to the petition.

With this action today, the Commissioners again called upon the Cumberland Valley School Board to reconsider their actions to acquire the McCormick Farm.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its nearly 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.

Enclosure: [Petition](#) & [Natural Lands Letter](#)