

Date: April 21, 2020
To: the Town of Caroline Planning Board
From: Mary Beth O'Connor and Virginia Miller
Re: [Proposed Moratorium Local Law 4-10-20](#)

We write in support of the Proposed Moratorium on new commercial development in the Town of Caroline. In the most recent minutes of the Town Board meeting, several Caroline residents have spoken and written eloquently of the problems associated with the building of an unsightly box store like Dollar General in our town. I agree with them that such a project is *not* in keeping with Caroline's stated goals and vision of itself as a community. Comments from the 2016 Caroline Resident Survey and from the November 2018 series of workshops reveal that, overwhelmingly, town residents value local agriculture; environmental and natural resources; local business and economy; community activities, services, and resources; and many other things—none of which include a big box store that will not pay a living wage, will not keep dollars in our community, may well be environmentally hurtful, and will not enhance the preservation of Caroline's rural character nor the health of its residents. Businesses such as Dollar General target rural areas in order to sell cheap items that will end up in the landfill sooner rather than later. Currently, results of my Google search show that there are Dollar General Stores in Dryden, Whitney Point, Newark Valley, Spencer, Elmira, Horseheads, and Moravia—just to mention the nearest ones. This is not to mention other such stores, such as Dollar Tree. Do we really want to allow such a business, headquartered out-of-state and committed to itself only, to build in our beautiful town? What would the impact on Brookton's Market be? Brookton's has built a wonderful business and community hub in Caroline and has been *there* for us all during the current health crisis, providing fresh, healthful, often local, often organic food via curbside pick-up and delivery. They have stepped up. I would hate to see a business like Dollar General cause any harm to Brookton's, or to our local Farmer's Market, or to any of the local farms and other small businesses in our town.

Very truly yours,

Mary Beth O'Connor & Virginia A. Miller
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