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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

December 17, 2018

Douglas C. McLearn
Chief, Division of Archaeology & Historic Protection
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. McLearn,

In recent days, I have been made aware of SEPTA's plans to move forward with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at its Jenkintown-Wyncote Station in the heart of my legislative district. I applaud the stated aim of these improvements—to increase passenger safety and operational efficiency, to enhance auto circulation and to bring the station into compliance with ADA accessibility requirements. But like the station's surrounding neighbors—Cheltenham Township and Jenkintown Borough—I am opposed to creating a new structure, one with no visual reference points in the community no less, to achieve these improvements.

The original station, in all its old world elegance, stands ready to adapt to the needs of a modern community and the requirements of the ADA. Its utility is undiminished, and as such, it should remain the focal point of the passenger experience.

I need not belabor the point with you: New is not always better. And in this case, I think new would actually be far worse for the surrounding community:

- The proposed design of the new structure is not even remotely in keeping with the architecture and the feel of the community surrounding it.
- The light pollution created by the proposed new structure would dramatically degrade the look and feel of the Wyncote Historic District, which surrounds it.
- The disutility of the original station will surely hasten its demise.

Given these points as well as my personal affinity for the beautiful old station and the historic Wyncote community in general, I am deeply concerned that insufficient consideration has been given to the exploration of improvements to the existing station. I urge your support for this approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve McCarter".

Steve McCarter

State Representative

Serving Cheltenham Township, Springfield Township and Jenkintown Borough

