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October 13, 2026

Dear Mapleton City Officials, et al:

This letter is written in response to an October 1, 2026, letter from Mapleton City titled "Land Use Project – Courtesy Notice" and sent to property owners in the area.

As outlined in that letter, we acknowledge that Mapleton City has limited discretion regarding decision-making toward the approval of a charter school in the area. Instead, city decisions are largely governed by processes, policies, and procedures dictated by state level leaders. In fact, our own past experience indicates that very little can be done to alter the approval or location of a charter school.

Nevertheless, as stewards of public funds and property owners of a public school directly adjacent to the location under consideration for charter school construction, we feel a duty and responsibility to provide feedback about the proposed location.

First, it seems an illogical and questionable use of taxpayer dollars to build a second, publicly funded school in direct proximity to an existing school already operating below capacity. This is especially true during a time of declining enrollment throughout the state, and in an area where district school closure is already under consideration.

Second, two elementary schools in direct proximity raise important community questions about student safety due to increased traffic and congestion.

We recommend that the location for this charter school be reconsidered, and that any approval be delayed, until after a site can be procured to better meet the community needs.

Sincerely,

Rick Nielsen
Superintendent

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