July 20, 2020

Dear County Executive Molinaro,

We are writing to you as operators of food businesses located in the food court at Poughkeepsie Galleria.

First, we'd like to thank you for your support in seeking State approval for us to re-open our business.

Please be aware, however, that the State's approval was only a partial solution. Because the mall's food court common seating area must remain closed, some of our usual customers are opting not to patronize our counters. In other cases, we have seen customers sitting on the floor, eating while walking and or using other surfaces to eat what they have bought.

There's really no need for this to be the case. Our seating areas could be operated at reduced capacity (50%), just like freestanding cafes and restaurants in our area and in the mall. In fact, the air quality at our food court is probably safer than most other food establishments, since the mall's HVAC system was upgraded to meet the State's new standards.

We are asking for the State to treat us fairly.

We hope you will support us in this effort.

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CC: Senator Sue Serino

Assemblywoman Didi Barrett