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December 7, 2011

Via Hand Delivery

Mr. Richard Wagner
Urban Design Commission
215 MLKJ Blvd., Ste. LL100
Madison, WI 53703

RE: St. Paul's Project- 700 Block of State Street

Dear Dick:

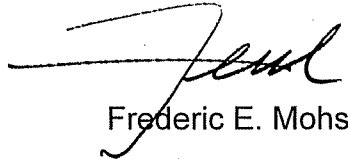
As you might recall, I was an opponent of the previous St. Paul's plan on the basis of its height as it being inappropriate for State Street and its relationship with surrounding buildings and, in particular, the Pres House. I have examined the present submission and enthusiastically support the concept, although there are details that need reworking.

I was present at the recent Landmarks Commission meeting and was very impressed by comments made by Amy Scanlon, the City's preservation planner. Her comments accepted the concept of a Classical Revival/Romanesque Revival, but recommended more thought on how the historic elements should be arranged to be more authentic. I would recommend that Amy's expertise be sought out by the developer's architect as modifications of the current plan are undertaken. I predict that some people will feel uneasy about replicating a style and details from a previous period. I am hopeful that the City processes will be able to permit a robust use of historic detail without feeling that somehow those details need to be modernized. The Pres House next door is a Madison landmark and has as its feature a finely decorated gothic tower. This is not a design from the 1920s, but one that is 700 years old. Just to the west, the University Club has architecture reminiscent of the 18th or 19th century in England. St. Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Avenue in New York draws on architecture developed centuries before and is beloved. With careful attention, these wonderful results can be replicated in our city.

I urge the Urban Design Commission to encourage this project to go forward with needed attention to design, but with appreciation for the joyous use of traditional detailing that will make the proposed building a Madison landmark for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mohs, MacDonald, Widder, Paradise & Van Note

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Mohs", written in a cursive style.

Frederic E. Mohs

FEM: eeh