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*Executive Director*

May 16, 2016

Dr. Robbert Dijkgraaf, Director  
Institute for Advanced Study  
1 Einstein Drive  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Dr. Dijkgraaf,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our over 7,000 members and supporters, we write today to announce our formal opposition to your proposal to develop Maxwell's Field on the Princeton Battlefield, and to ask that you reconsider your damaging plans.

Since our founding in 1931 we have worked to preserve the places, stories and communities that define Maryland's long and storied history. While your project may fall beyond our state's physical borders, it is an undeniable fact that Maryland soldiers fought for American independence on the hallowed Princeton Battlefield.

Maryland history was made at the Battle of Princeton and the way in which to honor Maryland's sacrifice is not through the destruction of that ground. According to research recently conducted by the *Maryland State Archives*, the morning of January 3, 1777 was bright and frigid, "with a frost which bespangled every object." The veteran Marylanders no longer had the numbers to make up their own battalion and had been combined with Virginian General Hugh Mercer's men, along with Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware troops.

It was in these combined ranks – themselves a testament to the ferocity of this conflict – that Maryland marched into battle. Ultimately, the majority of American casualties during the battle came from the brigade which included the Maryland Line. The Marylanders who fought and bled in the Battle of Princeton were a part of the force that cemented the fledgling nation's military ability. This is a story worth preserving and honoring.

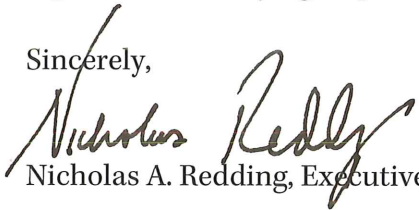
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For these reasons and for the Marylanders who served and sacrificed in this battle so that this nation might live, we write to ask that you halt your development plans slated for Maxwell's Field. We call on the Institute to work with the broader preservation community to find a suitable location for your laudable and worthwhile purposes that will not unnecessarily damage our irreplaceable American heritage in the process.

Furthermore, we are calling on our fellow statewide historic preservation organizations representing states that fielded troops at the Battle of Princeton to also join the effort to oppose this unnecessary and damaging project.

The sacrifices of our Continental forbearers deserve nothing less than our continued vigilance and undying respect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Redding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicholas" and last name "Redding" clearly distinguishable.

Nicholas A. Redding, Executive Director