

Tax Payers Against Waste

To: Taxpayers Against Waste
c/o Mr. Ellison and Ms. Davis:

Finally, I found you at last week's Planning Commission meeting!

I noticed that while Madison, Carbone and their buddies are getting paid \$23.5 million to advocate for the county's latest boondoggle you and your organization probably could use a little money. Enclosed find \$1000, and know there's plenty more where that came from.

This is not about Marcel Breuer's Cleveland Trust Co. Building - the issue here is the waste of our tax dollars - follow the money.

1. Why is Cuyahoga County engaged in this project with R. P. Carbone who is under indictment in Lorain County - and why was it so hard for their representative to admit that their company had never torn down as large a building?
2. Once the asbestos is removed from the Cleveland Trust Co. tower, our asset becomes even more valuable - who, in addition to R. P. Carbone, stands to gain by its demolition?
3. Why were R. P. Madison and Kohn Pederson Fox selected if their design concept proposal is either incomplete or unavailable for our review? Why are they unable to present a coherent architectural project? Why were the application materials submitted to the Planning Commission so poor? Is this normal for a qualified architectural team? Would the Planning Commission tolerate as bad an application from a private developer?
4. If you look at the RPMadison.com website and the history of their firm - they have clearly not been discriminated against - in fact, they've been involved with most of the large public projects in Cleveland for the last 25 years. Is their selection

yet another perversion of the minority set-aside law?

5. The project to consolidate county offices into one building does not represent a gain of any kind - merely shuffling these offices to a centralized location. Moving the county offices out of rented space into publicly financed space amounts to a long-term decrease of money circulating in our local economy. Rather than rent being paid to local landlords, the debt service and interest on bonds will leave Cuyahoga County. Who are the landlords who stand to lose the county as a tenant? Who will benefit from the issue and sale of new County bonds?

6. Renovation of space means more money and more jobs stay local. New construction means that more of our money leaves Cuyahoga County to purchase new building materials. Why is this being promoted as a good idea and how much money are we talking about?

I wish to remain anonymous. Suffice it to say that I am not associated with the Republican or Democratic Parties, the AIA, the Cleveland Restoration Society or the Green Building Coalition.

I want you to proceed in the tradition of our guide and leader, consumer advocate, Ralph Nader.

May God bless you.