

PKF feasibility study pivotal

Editor, New Era:

As the "concerned citizen" to whom Nancy W. Morris refers as "a hotelier and aggressive opponent of the project" in her March 7 letter, "Convention-center study," I would like to respond. (I have been out of the country.)

I have no doubt that Ms. Morris is representative of many conscientious persons who love Lancaster, have striven over the years to make it an even better place to live, and were genuinely enthusiastic about the convention center/hotel project when it was first broached.

At that time, the price was \$70 million, and the sponsors misrepresented that the project was supported by a genuine feasibility study.

Now the price tag approaches \$145 million and we know there never was a feasibility study although, thanks to the county commissioners, one is currently under way.

Almost all of us find it difficult to give up cherished convictions even when there is new and better information.

Seniors such as myself remember, often to our chagrin, our misconceptions concerning segregation, Vietnam and Watergate.

Being a hotelier but without hotels in this region simply makes me more attuned to potential pitfalls of the project.

Describing me as an "aggressive opponent of the project" is not accurate, because I will accept and support the findings of the forthcoming feasibility study regardless of its conclusions.

PKF Consultants has a worldwide reputation for integrity and professional competence.

It is ungenerous to believe that the firm would compromise its standards.

I ask Ms. Morris and the Lancaster's Economic Action for Downtown Success, which she heads, to put past convictions in abeyance and encourage its members to cooperate with PKF Consultants, so that its study can be completed as expeditiously as possible.

And I call upon Penn Square Partners and the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority to take no unnecessary or irrevocable actions until we all have the opportunity to reflect upon the findings of the feasibility study.

Robert Edwin Field