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For Immediate release

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A Sad Win: Laurel Historical Society Statement on the Tastee Diner

Yesterday's announcement from the City of Laurel regarding the Tastee Diner is a sad win. The Laurel Historical Society believes it is a win because the exterior integrity of one of the two remaining Comac diners in the country will be preserved under Pure Hana's agreement to incorporate it into their new medical marijuana dispensary. The distinctive exterior will not be encapsulated and destroyed forever. It is sad because in the brief time we became aware of the potential plans, it was clear that there were many options that could have led to the preservation of both the interior and exterior of this historic structure. A potential diner buyer had already inquired about it. Laurel's Tastee Diner will now join the ranks of Comac Diners "significantly altered." Only Jack's Diner in Albany NY will remain.

We believe that our efforts to work with Pure Hana and to publicly announce our opposition to the encapsulation plans played an important role in getting us to at least this point. In addition, the public's interest, both in Laurel and across the country, through petitions, social media and news stories made it clear that the Tastee Diner would not go quietly. We are glad Pure Hana and the city recognized that people in Laurel and around the country wanted the diner preserved.

We look forward to working with Pure Hana to preserve as much of the interior as possible. ##