[Date]

[Elected Official Name]

[Title of Office]

[Address]

[City, State, Zipcode]

Dear [Elected Official],

I am writing to express my opposition to the American Museum of Natural History’s proposed Gilder Center, which primarily consists of an enormous, empty atrium and fourth major entrance under the guise of an educational center.

The museum has not conducted a pedestrian traffic study, but the draft environmental impact statement says, “[the Center] would increase the number of Museum visitors who pass through the Park in this area.”

The museum estimates a minimum of 745,000 pedestrian trips due to the proposed Gilder Center. Yet, the museum seriously underestimated the increase in visitors to the Rose Planetarium before that was built.

Furthermore, lots of the new visitors would not simply pass through the park; they would spill over into it as they do over the steps at the Central Park West entrance, and over the entrance steps to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The AMNH’s DEIS does not address or appear to consider that the Gilder project, if built, will also be a gathering point for souvenir vendors and food carts who will flock to line Columbus Ave. in front of the park. The resulting increase in trash where receptacles are already overflowing will naturally also attract rats, vermin, and bugs.

The negative impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the neighborhood and the character of a quiet community-centered park is unimaginable. The DEIS does not address the mitigation of these key factors or take seriously the detrimental effect of creating new high traffic area in front of this entrance.

I call on you as [Elected Official’s Title] to vocally oppose, and do everything possible to halt this project.

Thank you,

[First Name] [Last Name]

[Address]