CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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October 9, 2024

Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor
Village of Sherman
111 Mill Street, P.O. Box 629
Sherman, NY 14781

Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward LOS

Dear Mayor Meeder,

This letter is in strong support for the Village of Sherman's $4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State for the Village of Sherman.

The NY Forward award will be an all-encompassing master project providing funding for building improvements, business development, placemaking strategies, gateways and green infrastructure for implementation and revitalization of downtown Sherman to attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, new retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing the 'We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman' anchor business.
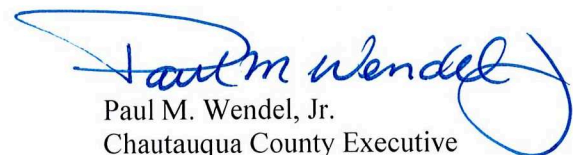
Along with investment in the anchor business and growing amenities, the Rosie Billquist Trail improvements to the greater Chautauqua Rails to Trails network and parks along French Creek are critical to the Village's economic development and stability, and quality of life strategies consist with the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns attracting visitors, new residents, and building a strong workforce.

Strengthening our small rural communities through established and proven ecotourism and agritourism development makes communities like the Village of Sherman less vulnerable to economic stressors and environmental challenges, all while in keeping with the historic character and charm of the neighborhoods.

Once again, I fully support this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Chautauqua County.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Wendel, Jr.
Chautauqua County Executive