



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3 – VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Dear Ms. Utz

I am writing today to express the Sherman Chamber of Commerce's complete support for the Village of Sherman's application to the third round of NY Forward.

The Village of Sherman is a vibrant, family-oriented rural community nestled in the center of three cities: Erie, PA; Jamestown, NY; and Dunkirk, NY. Centrally located between the larger metropolitan areas of Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Cleveland. Its location on the I-86 and being only 13 miles from the I-90 make Sherman a very accessible destination for residential, recreational and retail purposes.

Under the leadership of Mayor Colleen Meeder, the Village of Sherman is undergoing amazing transformation, not only aesthetically, but to build a stable and sustainable future. This includes the complete refurbishment of both the water and sewer facilities, the beginning of a 5-year stormwater improvements project, installation of 2 electric vehicle charging stations to draw visitors into the target area, adding additional lighting at the I-86 off ramp to make it more inviting and safe, single-family and mobile home improvement projects through grants from HCR, restoring the façade along Main Street, and the addition of new businesses and eateries investing into this community.

The vision is to capitalize on the unique, small-town, historic character of the village, while pursuing economic activity to create a community that is a thriving, walkable, stable, and equitable place. Building off recent commercial investment and growth, the Village seeks to become a destination for ecotourism and agritourism, and to gain its "Trail Town" designation. This designation will exponentially attract trail enthusiasts. Ecotourism brings visitor spending, drives labor income, and increases tax revenue for the communities along trails.

The Chamber is very supportive of the restoration and reuse of the many empty buildings, the preservation of our heritage at the French Creek Yorker Museum, the trail development, upgrades to the Minerva Free Library, and the creation of additional living spaces through mixed-use buildings and new developments. I believe these projects will all aid the stimulation of economic development and instill a renewed sense of pride in our village.

Awarding the NY Forward to the Village of Sherman would ensure the continued advancement of economic development and revitalization of this whole area, benefiting this community and the greater area in Chautauqua County. Please give the Village of Sherman full consideration for this much needed grant.

Respectfully,

Amanda Meeder
Chairperson, Sherman Chamber of Commerce