



2258 Route 66 Ghent NY 12075

April 20, 2016

Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram; the tunnel crossing of State Route 22 at the intersection of State Route 22 and Orphan Farm Rd. (Copake Falls); and three pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Rd. in Copake. These three components will finish approximately 28 miles of trail from Wassaic (Dutchess County) to Hillsdale (Columbia County), linking to New York City via Metro North Railroad. Upon completion the entire trail will be 46 miles in length.

This project will join two counties, NY State Parks, and a not for profit in a project which will become a destination for thousands of people from near and afar. As passionate entrepreneurs, new to the area, we are thrilled to hear about the future plans for the rail trail. Coming from the great state of Maine, where we are actively completing the Eastern Trail (www.easterntail.org) I am well aware of all the positive impacts the trail, thus far, has created for it's surrounding communities. All of us at Bartlett House very much look forward to seeing the trail grow; bringing visitors from all around the state and further to our front door!

I am hopeful that the you and the review committee will consider a grant for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association to aid them in improving this important "connection" in eastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damien Janowicz", is written over the typed name and title.

Damien Janowicz
Partner/Director of Operations
Bartlett House