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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Land Forces

Subcommittee on Readiness

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Subcommittee on Conservation
and Forestry

Subcommittee on Biotechnology,
Horticulture, and Research

HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy
and Trade

Subcommittee on Contracting and
Workforce

April 14, 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. By creating a hub that connects several rail trails to one another, HVRTA will become the focal point for visitors who wish to embrace the natural beauty of the region. This project would be a realization of the regional effort to develop a network of rail trails to inspire people to utilize alternative transportation in addition to encouraging individuals and families to capitalize on the recreational aspects of the trail.

I am pleased to support this request for funding and hopeful that you will consider the grant application 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'CG', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Chris Gibson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CPG:atm