



VILLAGE OF MILLERTON

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March 25, 2016

Mr. Robert H. Balkind, P.E
Deputy Commissioner
Dutchess County Department of Public Works
626 Dutchess Turnpike
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Dear Mr. Balkind:

The Village of Millerton supports and is encouraged by the efforts of the County of Dutchess to seek federal grant funds for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Phase 4 project, which will connect existing trail sections in Dutchess and Columbia Counties.

Since the Dutchess County portion of the HVRT expanded into Millerton, the Village has seen a significant increase in tourism. The Irondale Schoolhouse, which now sits at the head of this finished section and serves somewhat as a Visitor's Center, documented two-thousand individuals last season from across the country and world; and the Harlem Valley Rail Ride, a cycling event, draws hundreds of riders every year.

When the HVRT Phase 4 project is completed it will pass through some of the most scenic, rural views in Dutchess and Columbia Counties. This will spark greater interest in the region, attract more tourists while fostering increased demand for services such as restaurants and local merchants, and providing the community with a safe, healthy environment for outdoor recreation.

We look forward to seeing the completion of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and know it will have a positive impact on economic growth in our region.

Sincerely,

Martin F. Markonic, Mayor
Village of Millerton