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DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.  
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 28, 2023

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman  
Albany County Legislature  
112 State Street, Room 710  
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce:

I respectfully request the Albany County Legislature's authorization of a license agreement between Albany County and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) that would formalize physical connections between the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail and the Bender Melon Farm Preserve, which is located in the Town of New Scotland.

The 175-acre Bender Melon Farm Preserve is situated on the northern and southern side of the Albany County Rail Trail. This license agreement would allow for the creation of two new connections to planned hiking and biking trails on the northern portion of the preserve – one near the Bender Melon Farm Bridge, and the other further east along the trail. Additionally, one of these connections would intersect with already built trails on the southern piece of the preserve.

The Albany County Rail Trail serves as a lynchpin for future multi-use trail development. These latest connections will be yet another step towards building a more integrated trail system along the Rail Trail corridor through a partnership with Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. This would build on the progress already made after the County Legislature approved the formal connection of the Rail Trail to the nearby Joseph Hilton Park trail, which is also located within the Town of New Scotland.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. McCoy  
Albany County Executive

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader  
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader  
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel  
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel