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DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 2, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Joyce:

I respectfully request the County Legislature's authorization of a license agreement between Albany County and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) that would formalize a physical connection between the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail and the Noonan Preserve, which is located in the City of Albany and owned by MHLC.

The 3.6-acre Noonan Preserve lies directly in between the Normans Kill and the Albany County Rail Trail, and the only way to access the hiking trails that lie within the property is via the Rail Trail. A formal physical connection is thereby necessitated that will allow for a safe transition for pedestrians and bicyclists alike, as well as indemnify the county from liability.

Additionally, in order for the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC) to perform any needed maintenance or upgrades to the preserve, they will need to access it by utilizing the County Rail Trail. Included in this agreement should be an understanding that Albany County Department of Public Works will assist in these activities only by providing the transportation and drivers for the MHLC staff and volunteers to perform these tasks. This will ensure the highest level of safety, as only county-designated vehicles will be driving on the County Rail Trail.

This connection will be yet another step towards building a more integrated trail system along Albany County Rail Trail through a partnership with Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, as they develop their own hiking and biking trails in Albany County, including within the Bender Melon Farm Preserve.

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