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DANIEL C. LYNCH, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

August 31, 2023

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 allows MHLC to perform needed renovations on the Bender Melon Farm Preserve Bridge located in the Town of New Scotland, just outside the Village of Voorheesville. The bridge, which lies directly above the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail, connects the two separate pieces of the former Bender Melon Farm property and was acquired when the 175-acre parcel of land was purchased.

An inspection and load rating analysis conducted by Creighton Manning Engineering (CM) found that the central steel support infrastructure of the Bender Melon Farm Bridge to be in overall good and safe condition. However, the wooden stringers and deck planking of the bridge are in poor condition and will need to be replaced before the bridge can be reopened to connect the two sides of the preserve for future use by hikers, bicyclists, and light maintenance and emergency vehicles.

A license agreement will be needed to allow for the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and their selected contractors to utilize county property along the County Rail Trail to replace the decking and railing of the bridge and make any and all other necessary upgrades to bridge for it to be utilized safely once again. Included within this agreement will be an indemnification and hold harmless clause to ensure the county is not held liable for the renovations conducted above county property.

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