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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 quitclaim deed and easement between Albany County and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC), in which MHLC would formally accept ownership of the Bender Melon Farm Preserve Bridge that is located in the Town of New Scotland, just outside the Village of Voorheesville.

The steel 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 by MHLC. With the approval and adoption of this quitclaim deed and easement, any ambiguities regarding the ownership of the bridge itself would be settled, with MHLC formally accepting ownership of and responsibility for the structure, and indemnifying Albany County.

Moving forward, MHLC will continue with its planned renovations and eventual reopening of the bridge, which will connect the two sides of the Bender Melon Farm Preserve for future use by hikers, bicyclists, and light maintenance and emergency vehicles. This is another important step towards creating a more integrated multi-use trail system along the County Rail Trail corridor.

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