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PAUL D. TONKO

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June 1, 2020

Harold B. Parker
Federal Co-Chair
Northern Border Regional Commission
James Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 1201
53 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Parker:

I write in support of the proposal by the Troy Local Development Corporation for State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program funding for the redevelopment of Monument Square within Troy, New York.

Monument Square is located in the City of Troy's bustling downtown. As a key component of the city's Comprehensive Plan, the Monument Square project creates a public plaza that connects downtown to the city's Riverfront Park and Hudson Riverwalk, includes infrastructure upgrades and links the downtown and outdoor spaces to New York's Empire State Trail. Collectively, this plan will drive tourism and recreation within the city and across the region. As outlined in the Troy Local Development Corporation's application, this funding would aid site preparation, infrastructure and design work required to break ground.

Additionally, the redevelopment of Monument Square, coupled with its connection to the historic Hudson River, play an integral role in Troy's continued economic resurgence and its ability to attract and retain employees for the city's growing technology and gaming clusters. Furthermore, since 2014, Monument Square has been a New York State Capital Region Economic Development Council ("CREDC") priority project, highlighting the significant anticipated impacts of this endeavor. The Monument Square project also speaks to elements of the CREDC Urban Revitalization Plan.

As this plan maximizes the City of Troy's environmental, cultural, and economic assets, while aligning with state and local economic development strategies, the Monument Square project appears to meet the priorities of the State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program. Your full and fair consideration of the Troy Local Development Corporation's application, consistent with all laws, rules, regulation and agency policy, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

PDT/cew