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PAUL D. TONKO

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,  
MANUFACTURING, AND CRITICAL MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE, AND GRID SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY

June 11, 2024

Charles F. Sams III  
Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Sams:

I write in support of the application from Saratoga County to the Battlefield Interpretation Grants (BIG) program. The county is seeking federal support to implement technologically driven exhibits and wayside panels that will interpret the figures and events related to the Battles and Siege of Saratoga during the American Revolution.

As we rapidly approach the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, the region will receive national and international attention, bringing awareness to the importance of the victory of the American Army under General Horatio Gates over the British Northern Army under General John Burgoyne on October 17, 1777. This watershed moment will attract numerous visitors to the greater Saratoga County area, allowing communities to share their unique stories and resources. Additionally, this project will include the experiences of many diverse individuals, including British, German, and Loyalist women, enslaved African Americans, and Indigenous Americans. Their inclusion will ensure a well-rounded and authentic narrative.

By leveraging the use of technology, this project will provide a more immersive experience for visitors as well as reach a wider audience, igniting interest and creating economic benefits for the surrounding region.

Your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with current laws, rules, regulations, and agency policy, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko".

PAUL D. TONKO  
Member of Congress

PDT/npl