Dear Friends,

The Village is making a big play and applying for $10 million in funding through New York State’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative which has the goal of making NY’s small downtowns and communities the “places where the next generation of New Yorkers want to Live, work, raise a family and play”. You can read more about the program at <https://www.ny.gov/programs/downtown-revitalization-initiative>.

Only one community will be chosen in our region. Tannersville offers the DRI program the opportunity to extend its reach and set a model for smaller Village Main Streets and rural downtowns. Given all that is going on we think we should take a shot. The application process just opened and has a very short turnaround, with proposals due on May 31st - but we need to be ready submit earlier.

I know we often ask you for letters of support, but in this case it will truly make a difference in whether our Village makes the cut and is ultimately selected for this considerable investment. We have provided sample letters – for both businesses and nonprofit partners – but this is one case where a **personal letter makes a big difference** – so please use the examples for inspiration and send us a knockout optimistic personal statement of support as soon as you are able. They can be emailed back to sean@nextstepdigital.com, or dropped off at our office at 5994 Main St. Tannersville, NY.

Whatever the outcome, just submitting a proposal will make many more people aware of our Village’s unique qualities, accomplishments, and the extraordinary spirit of collaboration that is driving our great momentum.

To provide more input check out the very short survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DowntownRevitalization>.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE OTHER PEOPLE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY!

Thank you.

Sean Mahoney

Executive Director

Hunter Foundation Inc.

Please email questions to Sean Mahoney from the Hunter Foundation at sean@hunterfoundation.org.

***Small business letter***

Letterhead

Date

Address

**Re: Letter of Support – Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Village of Tannersville**

Distinguished Members of the Capital Region Economic Development Council,

On behalf of my family and our business \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name), I offer my full support for the Village of Tannersville’s Round 4 Downtown Revitalization Initiative application requesting funds that will capitalize and improve upon our very unique Main Street that defines us as the Painted Village in the Sky.

In recent years we have been very impressed by the Village and the Hunter Foundation’s support for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. They have invested in and matched public funding to leverage all of our successful projects.

The projects on the table now are especially exciting and will directly result in more year-round activity and the bottom line profitability of our business. These projects come out of a number of local planning efforts. In my opinion, the development of a destination quality waterfront park, restoration of the environment at Rip Van Winkle Lake (and restoring swimming), constructing the Main Street CreekWalk pocket park, and expanding and improving our trail network are a great base to build on and make us a wise place to invest the State’s DRI resources. The business community, nonprofit network and deep commitment of private foundations and philanthropists has been a game changer – but we want to see public investment to leverage what the private sector is committed to doing.

Working together, this true and ongoing public-private partnership can show NY’s small villages that success is within reach.

Our company strongly endorses Tannersville’s application and we’re ready to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

XXX

**Alternate Small Business Letter**

Letterhead

Date

Address

Hello Members of the Capital Region Economic Development Council,

Hello from the home of Rip Van Winkle and the Painted Village in the sky – beautiful Tannersville, NY.

I have operated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - a small business in downtown for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. I live here, am raising a family here and can attest to this being a Village ripe for more investment.

We have benefitted from both private and public investment in businesses, commercial buildings and facades, expansion of recreation, and skillful restoration of our zombie properties, public art and murals. We have been here through the tough times and can assure you that today’s business environment is much more resilient, and our best years can be right now.

There is more work to do and the planning and funding the DRI can provide will focus on this work on high impact projects that can define our role as a model in the Catskills Park and the NYC Watershed.

Count me in. I, my family, our staff and our business are more than ready to advance a DRI program if Tannersville is selected.

Sincerely

XXXXXXXXXX

**Alternate Small Business Letter**

Letterhead

Date

Address

Hello Members of the Regional Economic Development Council,

Welcome to a place ripe and ready for investment – our Village of Tannersville. It’s an exciting time here and my family and I want to help kick downtown success up a notch. There’s a place (maybe more than one) at our table to make that happen.

No one leader or group has gotten us to be the vital Main Street we are. As residents, small businesses, arts and performance organizations we are pulling our weight – but there are some big things that need investment. For the most part our Painted Village looks distinctive, but we do have a few vacant buildings that are deteriorating and need attention. We need to build Gooseberry Park and add to our identity as the crossroads for many recreation trails that appeal to visitors year-round. My family and staff love the Huckleberry Trail and are anxious to see the Kaaterskill Rail Trail completed – connecting multiple Mountaintop communities.

Our staff love the Village but they are finding it increasingly difficult to find a place to live. The need for affordable workforce housing is acute – that is one place the DRI Program could invest that would immediately help our businesses. Since we have a public water and sewer system, some sites right around the core are ripe for new investment. An exciting Main Street center sets the scene for that next step.

So, let’s get to work together,

XXXXXX