

August 3, 2011

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Ms. Joan McDonald, Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12232

Re: Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)
Route 219 Funding

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner McDonald:

Cattaraugus County's Route 219 Corridor Development Committee respectfully requests that the funding for the Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and the completion of Sections 6 through 12 be included in the New York State statewide transportation plan.

A completed Route 219 freeway will be a vital north-south intermodal connection for our region. Continental 1, a multi-state effort, is a High Priority Trade and Travel Corridor from Toronto, crossing at the Peace Bridge, then through Buffalo and on to Miami. Completion of the Route 219 freeway is an essential connection for this corridor.

Cattaraugus County and Western New York are characterized by declining population, negative economic growth, and a diminishing tax base. Completion of Route 219 through Cattaraugus County is a key component of Continental 1 and will generate economic growth by retaining and expanding existing industries through efficient access to markets and suppliers and by making the corridor communities more competitive in attracting new industries.

A further benefit that will be realized is that a Route 219 freeway will greatly increase the safety for those travelling into and through our region.

Thank you, Governor and Commissioner, for your leadership in the revitalization of Western New York's economy through the funding of the Route 219 SEIS and construction.

Sincerely,



Crystal J. Abers, Director
Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism



Naturally Yours