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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 14, 2019

The Honorable John Fleming, M.D.
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
United States Department of Commerce
United States Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Fleming,

I write in support of the application submitted by Clinton County for funding from the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs through the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA). This funding will be used to redevelop the infrastructure of the vacant former Clinton County Airport site in the Town of Plattsburgh, creating a shovel-ready industrial space that will increase the opportunity for economic development.

Clinton County is located on the shores of Lake Champlain near New York's northern border with Canada. Occupying over 1,000 square miles, its population is comprised of 82,128 residents according to recent census data. Clinton County is home to multiple educational institutions, such as Plattsburgh State University College and Clinton Community College. In the past decade, this economically distressed community has endured significant financial challenges with the closure of the Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

The requested funding will be used to support infrastructure projects to develop a shovel-ready industrial and technology park. Currently, Clinton County has utilized its proximity to Canada to position itself as an attractive location for U.S. operations of Canadian companies. Specifically, it has been successful in attracting world-class transportation equipment and aerospace companies, creating an opportunity for additional manufacturing growth in the years ahead if it can create shovel ready industrial space. This timely strategic investment in this unique economic ecosystem will ensure the county's continued growth and success in the global economy.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Dominic Sanchez at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator