

March 19, 2021

Allegany County Industrial Development Agency
6087 NYS Route 19N, Suite 100
Belmont, NY 14813

Dear Dr. Clark:

As Western New York's private, non-profit economic development organization, Invest Buffalo Niagara's mission is to facilitate business attraction and expansion efforts that create and retain jobs, and increase capital investments across the eight counties of our service territory.

I write today to share the positive economic impact Project Block's proposed cheese manufacturing expansion project at the Crossroads Site would have on Western New York. Not only would the proposed expansion retain Project Block as a major employer in Allegany County, but its supply chain effects would be a boon to the entire Western New York and Finger Lakes regions. The impacts at the Crossroad Site, through Allegany County, and beyond across our region would be transformative.

Based on an economic input-output analysis conducted by Invest Buffalo Niagara's Research Department., not only would Project Block create 270 new jobs and retain its existing 229 jobs, but its supply chain effects would create an additional 1,500 jobs across the region and the consumer spending of Project Block and its suppliers would support another 550 jobs in the regional economy. These permanent cheese manufacturing jobs do not count the nearly 500 construction jobs that will be supported throughout the construction phase of Project Block's new facility.

The successful completion of Project Block, one of the largest economic development projects in Allegany County's history, is critical during this time in our region's history. The timely approval of Project Block's expansion project is of utmost importance to our economy, and I look forward to its successful completion.

I commend the Allegany County Industrial Development Agency's commitment to and leadership on this important economic development project.



Thomas Kucharski
President & CEO, Invest Buffalo Niagara
Chair, International Economic Development Council