

**SUPPORT for THE GREAT LAKES CHEESE CO., INC., PROPOSED CHEESE MANUFACTURING FACILITY
PROJECT IN THE TOWNS OF AMITY AND ANGELICA, NEW YORK**

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This project presents a unique opportunity for Allegany County. I believe that this project may be the “ONE THING” that will allow this county to stabilize and grow its economy now and into the future.

Change is sometimes a hard thing to deal with. This county has seen a lot of change throughout its history. The economic footprint has constantly evolved ranging from industries’ such as Tannery, logging, oil production and refinery, to large scale manufacturing that produced products for the electric utility industry and oil and gas production worldwide. We have seen these industries come and go, but a constant economic driver for this area has always been the agribusiness.

The Great Lakes Cheese Project supports the local agriculture industry by retaining 250 employees and by creating approximately 200 new jobs once the cheese manufacturing plant is completed, which would provide for an increased payroll of approximately \$9 million a year. The ripple down effect, or the domino effect, of these jobs would have a huge impact on all other small businesses in the area such as; grocery stores, gas stations, local contracting services, restaurants and school districts by increasing their bottom lines and even potentially providing for increased employment in their businesses.

With the doubling of the milk production, it is estimated that approximately 600 farm jobs will be added to the existing agricultural community. Strengthening the agribusiness in this region.

The domino effect goes on, it is estimated on an average 240 new construction jobs over the duration of the project, peaking at around 480 would be required during the build giving jobs to *local laborers and construction companies*.

My calculations show approximately 1500 jobs would result from either working directly for the company and or providing services to the company during the build, this does not take into effect the potential of new jobs in the local businesses providing services to the families of these 1500 workers.

I believe that if Great Lakes Cheese, Co., Inc., is unable to build a new facility in Allegany County, it will be forced to leave the state eliminating 229 local manufacturing jobs, removing 2 million pounds of daily milk demand from the local market, leading to the loss of dairy farms in the County. It will be yet another negative impact on the tax base and workforce in the region.

Yes, Great Lake Cheese will benefit from this project moving forward. I don’t see this as a singular benefit but there is a greater good resulting from this project. I believe the residents of Allegany County and the region will all benefit from this project moving forward.