

CRAIG R. LEGGETT

Land Management Services

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December 9, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for The Balsam House, 477 Atateka Road, Chestertown, NY

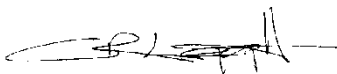
To Whom it May Concern:

The revitalization of the Balsam House has been a hope in the community for a long time. The benefits that the hotel and spa bring to the town and surrounding area is far reaching. The benefits span from providing local jobs to providing distinguished accommodations for visitors.

As the former Supervisor of the Town of Chester, much of our time was spent on promoting our area and laying the foundation for a vibrant and diverse economy. A project like the Balsam House is a prime example of the type of businesses that are supported by the community and command a good market niche. They fit well.

As current president of the North Warren Chamber of Commerce, I hear about the need for more lodging and event space in our area, as well as more restaurant options. The Balsam House fits the size for local and regional demand.

Chester has a strong sense of place and the Balsam House has historic significance: it is the last standing "Adirondack Hotel" around any of our lakes. Several generations ago, there were many tourist hotels serving the demand for lakeside accommodations, and that demand is stronger than ever, based on County Tourism reports. As time evolves more niche market opportunities for our region, the Balsam House is positioned to fill a unique sector.



Craig R. Leggett,