



Steven M. Neuhaus
County Executive

Amanda Dana
Director of Tourism

May 6, 2026

Mr. Jeffrey Crist
Chairman
Orange County New York Industrial Development Agency
4 Crotty Ln #100,
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Chairman Crist.

I am writing in strong support of the proposed Newburgh-Beacon Weekend Ferry Pilot Program and the tremendous opportunity it presents for Orange County, the City of Newburgh, and the greater Hudson Valley region.

As Director of Tourism & Film for Orange County, I see this initiative as far more than a transportation connection. The ferry pilot represents a strategic investment in regional accessibility, tourism growth, economic vitality, and quality of life for residents on both sides of the Hudson River.

Creating a direct weekend connection between Newburgh and Beacon, including access to the Metro-North train station, opens Orange County to an expanded visitor market from New York City and surrounding downstate communities. Easier access encourages day trips, overnight stays, waterfront visitation, dining, shopping, arts and culture experiences, and exploration of destinations throughout Orange County.

More tourism directly benefits our local economy. Increased visitor activity supports restaurants, retail shops, hospitality businesses, attractions, and service providers while generating additional sales tax revenue and economic impact across the region.

Beyond the immediate tourism advantages, this pilot program also contributes to long-term regional growth and community development. Connectivity matters when individuals and families are deciding where to live, work, and invest. Improved transportation access between Orange and Dutchess Counties enhances Newburgh's appeal as a place to relocate, build businesses, and enjoy a vibrant Hudson Valley lifestyle.

I appreciate Orange County IDA's leadership in supporting forward-thinking projects that enhance economic opportunity and community development. I strongly encourage continued support and advancement of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Amanda Dana
Director of Tourism & Film

May 5 2026

Orange County Funding Corporation LDC
Orange County Industrial Development Agency
4 Crotty Lane, Suite 100
New Windsor, NY 12553

Re: Newburgh-Beacon Weekend Ferry Pilot Program 2026

Dear Mr. Crist and the Board of the Orange County Funding Corporation,

As members of the Newburgh City Council, we are pleased to express our support for the proposed ferry pilot serving Greater Newburgh and Orange County. This project represents a unique opportunity to improve connections between Newburgh and Beacon, enhancing both mobility and access to jobs, services, and recreational destinations.

A ferry service has the potential to provide immediate economic benefits by attracting visitors, supporting our local businesses, providing affordable family recreation, and generating much-needed additional sales tax revenue. Beyond these near-term gains, it signals that Newburgh is embracing public-private partnerships and practical solutions that strengthen our regional ties.

I strongly encourage Orange County IDA's OCFC to consider funding support for this initiative. Local investment is a powerful demonstration of confidence in the project and helps position both the City of Newburgh and Orange County in a stronger position for future support from State agencies and Governor Hochul.

We also hope to launch the ferry pilot as it would be the beginning of an exciting chapter for Newburgh and a chance to showcase effective collaboration across municipalities and counties in the name of fostering economic vitality and improved quality of life in our region.

Sincerely,

Tamika Stewart
City Council Member, Ward 3

May 5 2026

Orange County Funding Corporation LDC
Orange County Industrial Development Agency
4 Crotty Lane, Suite 100
New Windsor, NY 12553

Re: Newburgh-Beacon Weekend Ferry Pilot Program 2026

Dear Mr. Crist and the Board of the Orange County Funding Corporation,

As members of the Newburgh City Council, we are pleased to express our support for the proposed ferry pilot serving Greater Newburgh and Orange County. This project represents a unique opportunity to improve connections between Newburgh and Beacon, enhancing both mobility and access to jobs, services, and recreational destinations.

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I strongly encourage Orange County IDA's OCFC to consider funding support for this initiative. Local investment is a powerful demonstration of confidence in the project and helps position both the City of Newburgh and Orange County in a stronger position for future support from State agencies and Governor Hochul.

We also hope to launch the ferry pilot, as it would mark the beginning of an exciting chapter for Newburgh and a chance to showcase effective collaboration across municipalities and counties to foster economic vitality and improve quality of life in our region.

Sincerely,

Ronald Zorrilla
Council Member
City of Newburgh
City Hall
83 Broadway
Newburgh, N.Y. 12550

(845) 654-0355

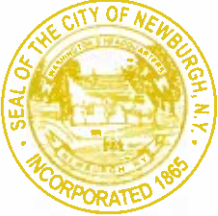
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THE CITY OF

NEWBURGH

NEW YORK



CITY OF NEWBURGH

Office of Councilmember Monteverde

Ward 2 Representative

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May 6, 2026

Orange County Funding Corporation
LDC Orange County Industrial Development Agency
4 Crotty Lane, Suite 100 New Windsor, NY 12553

Re: Newburgh-Beacon Weekend Ferry Pilot Program 2026

Dear Mr. Crist and Members of the Board of the Orange County Funding Corporation,

As a member of the Newburgh City Council, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ferry pilot serving the Greater Newburgh and Orange County region. This initiative represents a meaningful opportunity to strengthen the connection between Newburgh and Beacon while improving access to employment opportunities, services, tourism, and recreational destinations along the Hudson River.

The proposed ferry service has the potential to generate immediate economic benefits by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, expanding affordable family-friendly recreational opportunities, and increasing much-needed sales tax revenue for the region. In addition, this pilot demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to regional transportation and economic development through public-private collaboration and intermunicipal partnership.

I strongly encourage the Orange County Funding Corporation to consider providing financial support for this initiative. Local investment in the ferry pilot would send a strong message of confidence in the project and help position both the City of Newburgh and Orange County to secure additional support from New York State agencies and the administration of Kathy Hochul.

It is my hope that this ferry pilot can move forward and serve as the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our region — one that highlights the value of collaboration across municipalities and counties while fostering economic vitality, tourism, connectivity, and an improved quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Ramona Monteverde

Ramona Monteverde
Councilmember, Ward 2
Newburgh City Council



PATRICK K. RYAN

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2026

Orange County Funding Corporation
Orange County Industrial Development Agency
4 Crotty Lane, Suite 100
New Windsor, New York 12553

Dear Mr. Crist and the Board of the Orange County Funding Corporation,

Following the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's abrupt closure of the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry service, I write in support of the Save the Ferry coalition's proposal to pilot a seasonal weekend ferry service in 2026. Funding for the pilot from the Orange County Funding Corporation would support a ferry service for three days a week from June to October. The pilot can track ridership and economic impact which can ultimately be used to develop a long-term plan to bring the ferry back permanently.

Prior to the closure, the Newburgh-Beacon Ferry provided a crucial cross-river connection for those seeking convenient, efficient, and reliable access to Metro-North trains. The permanent loss of ferry service will be incredibly disruptive to commuters and cut off Hudson Valley residents from yet another public transportation mode, as well as harm regional tourism and economic development; further isolating Newburgh and Beacon from tourists that travel north from New York City and the capital that they bring to our region.

The Hudson Valley is experiencing significant growth. The state and federal government are both investing millions to develop new housing in both Beacon and Newburgh. With this momentum, access to reliable and expanded public transit is more essential than ever. Limiting or removing transit options in the midst of this growth not only undermines the region's progress but also betrays public trust. People are told that these investments would create more connected, accessible communities—yet reducing transit service moves us in the opposite direction. It sends the wrong message to those who have chosen to live in the Hudson Valley and contradicts the very goals of sustainable regional development. We need to improve public transit in the Hudson Valley, and we can do this, in part, through the Save the Ferry coalition's weekend pilot program.

Since last summer, when the public was made aware of the closure, the community response has been resounding, unified, and unwavering: do not take away our ferry. This pilot would be an opportunity to demonstrate demand and economic value of the ferry for both commuters and recreational riders alike. Your full and fair consideration of this request, consistent with current laws, rules, regulations, and agency policy, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress

PKR/npl