



Steven M. Neuhaus
County Executive

Amanda Dana
Director of Tourism

June 16, 2023

Orange County Industrial Development Agency
c/o Dean Tamburri, Acting Chairman
Orange County Business Accelerator
4 Crotty Lane, Suite 100
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Mr. Tanburri,

I am writing in support for the application of OC Hospitality, LLC. The proposed Candlewood Suites Hotel addresses the needs in Orange County for more lodging options and especially with the increased tourism and hospitality activity in the Town of Wallkill.

As a member of the management team for the Department of Tourism, I see firsthand the continuous demand for hotel rooms and unfortunately some of the hotel revenue for the county is leaving the area as Orange County has nearly 100% occupancy during its extended travel season. Our demand is largely due to increased sports tourism, destination weddings, events, and LEGOLAND visitors. We are trending to be even busier in 2023 as compared to 2022.

Hotels in general are economic drivers providing lodging solutions mostly for out-of-town visitors who not only stay in these properties but spend a great amount of time and money in our communities. Candlewood Suites will ultimately add 101 rooms to our inventory that will greatly help keep visitors in our county. In addition, this project will create full time positions and while under construction, this project will create local construction jobs driving a capital investment of over \$14 million into our community.

Additionally, we witnessed the success of this developer with one of our top performing properties, Home2 Suites also in the Town of Wallkill. This proven track record lays the foundation to another spectacular lodging property, and we are incredibly excited to see this project come to fruition.

Thank you for your consideration of OC Hospitality, LLC to receive the much-needed benefits through the Orange County Industrial Development Agency. We are confident this hospitality project will make significant contributions to the economy for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Rachel Carr
Coordinator, Orange County Tourism