

Ulster County Economic Development Alliance
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Elliott Auerbach
Comptroller
244 Fair Street, 5th Floor
Kingston, NY 12401

March 7, 2018

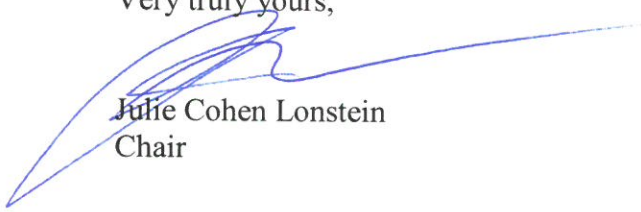
Dear Comptroller Auerbach,

I hope this letter finds you well. I write to you after last night's UCEDA meeting at which time Steve Burger, a Central Hudson representative, attended and presented to the board. He requested that the existing contract between Central Hudson and UCEDA regarding the Ready-To-Go program not be cancelled by the negotiation of the \$60,908.00 check previously sent to Central Hudson representing the balance of the Ready to Go Funds, but that the contract be modified so that the remaining \$60,908.00 balance can be used to bring natural gas to Northeast Solite, a coal-burning business on Kings Highway in Saugerties. According to Central Hudson, this project will cost in excess of \$1 million and with the contract amendment and allocation by the UCEDA of the Ready To Go funds on this project, Central Hudson can then commit an additional \$100,000.00 as well. (As you may be aware, pursuant to the contract, UCEDA returned Central Hudson's unused Ready To Go funds at the end of 2017, but Central Hudson did not cash the check and returned it to UCEDA yesterday.)

The Board has vetted the proposed project and determined that it is an excellent and appropriate allocation of these funds. However, the UCEDA board members are hesitant to proceed while your audit continues, especially when so many questions and requests for information were made by you specifically on the use of the Ready To Go program. The UCEDA Board voted unanimously to support this project, contingent on receiving your findings regarding the use of the Ready To Go funds so that the UCEDA can be aware if anything procedurally or factually determined by you on this project would affect our approval. Central Hudson anticipates moving forward with this project in the next few weeks and would like to know as soon as possible whether these funds are available. Counsel for the UCEDA, Jennifer Clark, Esq. additionally gave her opinion last night that the modification of the contract would be procedurally appropriate. Kindly let us know by Monday, March 12th if you have found any issues with use of this program.

In addition, your original Audit Announcement, dated September 18, 2017, provided your estimate of 8 – 12 weeks to complete this audit. We are now 24 weeks into this process. Please let us know when we can expect all of the findings.

Very truly yours,


Julie Cohen Lonstein
Chair

cc: UCEDA Board Members

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