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Kristopher Williams, PRISM Coordinator
Capital/Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga
50 West High St.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am pleased to offer my support for the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.'s application to the Capital/Mohawk PRISM's 2019 RFP. As Albany County Executive I am proud to say that the Huyck Preserve is one of the gems of the County.

The Huyck Preserve attracts over 3,000 visitors each year to its 12-miles of trails, provides important educational programming for our area's school children and the general public, and has been the site of significant scientific research in its 80-year history as a biological field station. In short, the Preserve is an integral part of our community.

In addition to being a resource for science, education, and recreation, the Huyck Preserve is also important to conservation, containing over 70 ecological communities that support diverse native flora and fauna including state-listed species. The Huyck Preserve's current proposal with Cap/Mohawk PRISM is the next step of work initiated at the Preserve through a 2018 grant it received jointly with Vassar College through the New York State Conservation Partnership Program. That project focused on creating sound, informed invasive species monitoring and management plans based on best management practices and the experiences of on-the-ground land managers. This current proposal will allow the Huyck Preserve to hire seasonal employees to begin to accomplish the invasive species goals outlined in that plan for the Huyck Preserve.

The Huyck Preserve's plan to eliminate and/or control the invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant species threatening native populations is a crucial step toward ensuring the long-term health of the forests, waterways, and other ecological communities in our region for wildlife and people alike. Through regional partnerships and education events, this project will have broad impacts, and I support the Huyck Preserve's efforts.

Sincerely

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive