



May 28, 2020

Jeff Fiegenschuh
Office of the City Manager
City of Rochelle
420 N 6th Street
Rochelle, IL 61068

Dear City Manager Fiegenschuh:

The Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation (GREDCO) is in full support of the redevelopment of the Hickory Grove property located in one of the City's prime commercial and retail corridors. We believe the demolition and repurpose of the site meets the spirit of the Rebuild Illinois Shovel Ready Grant. The City of Rochelle and the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation are collaborating to promote economic development through the construction of industrial infrastructure that facilitates the creation of good jobs. See a few samples of projects below.

The City of Rochelle will complete a 3-mile expansion of its rail system this year opening more than 1,000 acres for new industrial development. The project includes the construction of a 4-track rail bridge and a 10-acre rail-to-truck transload center which GREDCO was able to acquire the land on behalf of the City at no cost. This facility will serve as a point of access to rail service for hundreds of industries in Northern Illinois seeking to ship product through the Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroads. The \$7M project will be completed in 2020.

The City of Rochelle through a partnership with GREDCO, has purchased over 40 acres for future rail system expansions. This project will unlock another 1,000 acres for industrial development.

The City's Economic Development Department was successful in facilitating the sale of the \$100M Nippon Sharyo Industrial Campus to an Ohio-based industry that will convert the rail car manufacturing facility into a new industrial use, creating 350 new jobs.

The multi-use redevelopment of the Hickory Grove property will provide the quality of life amenities our community so desperately seeks. A convention/event center, restaurant, retail and office space with possible residential opportunities would become an economic development tool to attract business and new residents and visitors from throughout the region.

We hope that you will strongly consider awarding the City's application with the Grant.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ohlinger", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Ohlinger
President – Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation