



BLACKHAWK WATERWAYS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Serving Carroll, Lee, Ogle & Whiteside Counties in Northwest Illinois

Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Manager
City of Rochelle
420 North 6th St.
Rochelle, IL 61068

May 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Fiegenschuh;

On behalf of the Blackhawk Waterways Convention & Visitors Bureau, please accept this letter of support for the grant application being submitted by the City of Rochelle for a DCEO Rebuild Illinois grant.

As the regional destination marketing organization, we welcome facilities that have the ability to attract visitors and generate an economic benefit via increased sales tax dollars for the area. The redevelopment of the former Hickory Grove Center into a multi-use facility would benefit not only the city of Rochelle but our entire region. It would provide much needed space for events, banquets and receptions and the addition of another restaurant in Rochelle expands the choices offered to locals and visitors when dining out.

The solid manufacturing, industry and business base in Rochelle means there will always be a need for office space and including it in the plan enlarges the pool of prospective tenants. Residential housing is also a potential use for a portion of this large facility and expands the appeal for this mixed-use property.

We strongly support the City of Rochelle's DCEO Rebuild Illinois grant application and look forward to promoting this facility as a tourism attraction in the Blackhawk Waterways region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Bausman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Diane Bausman, Executive Director
Blackhawk Waterways CVB