



Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building
One Van Wyck Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520-2501

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July 22, 2024

Linda Malave
Regional Director, Mid-Hudson Region
Empire State Development
33 Airport Center Drive, Suite 201
New Windsor, NY 12553

Dear Ms. Malave:

I am writing to support Historic Hudson Valley's application for a Market New York grant to enhance The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor, a National Historic Landmark in our Village.

Blaze is a blockbuster regional event that has significantly grown over the past years, creating an enormous impact on the local economy, with thousands of visitors stopping—and spending—in our Village and other communities in the area. It is as beloved by residents as by tourists – as a celebration of Sleepy Hollow Country, local history, and the fall season, taking place at a site with longstanding significance to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson. Blaze is an essential component of regional tourism that boosts visitation for the entire state, and we are fortunate to have it take place in our community.

Historic Hudson Valley's plans to improve Blaze with immersive sound and new installations will have a direct and significant impact locally and throughout New York State. I hope that you and your colleagues on the Regional Economic Development Council will give every consideration to their application for this grant.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

With thanks,

Bryan T. Healy
Village Manager