Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of Connecting Communities in Action in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

By investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, will be investing in our Western New York neighbors, like Allyson, whose mounting health issues forced her to end a 25-year career as a counselor. She currently receives a limited Social Security Disability income, but after paying for rent and electricity, she has little money left to feed herself and her two grandchildren, for whom she has primary custody. Allyson relies on the support of one of FeedMore WNY’s partner food pantries to access healthy food for her family. She said the food helps them “tremendously” and is grateful that she has somewhere to turn in what she calls a “dire time” in her life.

A new facility will help people like James, who is battling cancer and considers the two nutritious meals per day he receives through FeedMore WNY’s home delivered meal program to be a lifeline. But it’s not just the delicious, ready-to-eat meals that James looks forward to – it’s the friendships provided by his
home delivered meal volunteers. Since his roommate passed away, James especially looks forward to the friendly smiles and warm greetings given by his volunteers.

Finally, a new facility will help FeedMore WNY better serve children like Winston, a third-grader who looks forward to receiving a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly food each week from his school in partnership with FeedMore WNY’s BackPack program. To Winston, the BackPack program means he has yummy animal crackers, juice boxes and peanut butter to snack on when he gets hungry. For his mother, Julie, the BackPack program offers peace of mind when it is tough for her family to make ends meet. Winston wants to be a pilot when he grows up, and the BackPack program helps provide the proper nutrition he needs to grow and thrive.

Connecting Communities in Action’s Nutrition Division is committed to empowering the community to make choices through advocacy, education, and outreach. We connect families to resources in order to promote food security and encourage the value of nutrition. Without the partnership with FeedMore WNY, we could not positively impact the lives of families directly in our community.

We enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY’s capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY’s lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

My best regards,

Corrie Riehle Phetteplace
Nutrition Director
April 7, 2022

Dear Community Leader,

As Chautauqua County Executive, I am writing in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.
I support FeedMore WNY's capital campaign and facility project, and look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 716.753.4211

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul M. Wendel, Jr.
Chautauqua County Executive
Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities of Buffalo, N.Y. in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

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The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler, and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth
of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

By investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, will be investing in our Western New York neighbors, like Allyson, whose mounting health issues forced her to end a 25-year career as a counselor. She currently receives a limited Social Security Disability income, but after paying for rent and electricity, she has little money left to feed herself and her two grandchildren, for whom she has primary custody. Allyson relies on the support of one of FeedMore WNY’s partner food pantries to access healthy food for her family. She said the food helps them “tremendously” and is grateful that she has somewhere to turn in what she calls a “dire time” in her life.

A new facility will help people like James, who is battling cancer and considers the two nutritious meals per day he receives through FeedMore WNY’s home delivered meal program to be a lifeline. But it’s not just the delicious, ready-to-eat meals that James looks forward to – it’s the friendships provided by his home delivered meal volunteers. Since his roommate passed away, James especially looks forward to the friendly smiles and warm greetings given by his volunteers.

Finally, a new facility will help FeedMore WNY better serve children like Winston, a third-grader who looks forward to receiving a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly food each week from his school in partnership with FeedMore WNY’s BackPack program. To Winston, the BackPack program means he has yummy animal crackers, juice boxes and peanut butter to snack on when he gets hungry. For his mother, Julie, the BackPack program offers peace of mind when it is tough for her family to make ends meet. Winston wants to be a pilot when he grows up, and the BackPack program helps provide the proper nutrition he needs to grow and thrive.

Catholic Charities of Buffalo collaborates with FeedMore WNY to provide food to thousands of individuals out of our eight FeedMore-supported pantries in Erie and Cattaraugus Counties. This collaboration is imperative to the work Catholic Charities does and the communities we serve. FeedMore WNY allows us to provide nutritious food options to our clients no matter with all dietary restrictions. We enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY’s capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY’s lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deacon Steve Schumer
President & CEO
April 6, 2022

Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of The Cheektowaga Senior Services Department in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY. FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY & Meals on Wheels for WNY to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to growth through program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services has stretched its facilities far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These two locations offer no room for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

Investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, is an investment in our Western New York neighbors, young and old alike. I see, firsthand, how the seniors in Cheektowaga depend on the home-delivered meals and the daily check-in from the amazing volunteers. This program is definitely helping our seniors stay in their homes longer and live as independently as possible. Our Town absolutely could not provide this meal service without our partnership with FeedMore WNY. I also see how the seniors who attend the congregate lunch sites in our community truly need not just the nutritious hot lunch, but the socialization that goes along with it. We know that social isolation is detrimental to a seniors physical and mental health and the congregate lunch program gives them a reason to get up and dressed in the morning and have a safe, friendly place to go to for a great meal and some fellowship with their peers. We are also very fortunate to have the FeedMore Farm Market Fresh Produce Truck coming to our Senior Center on a weekly basis to serve our entire community, not just our older adults.

We are very grateful for our partnership with FeedMore WNY and we support FeedMore WNY’s capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on their lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

Sincerely,

Kerry A. Peek
Director
April 19, 2022

Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of Buffalo Urban League in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.
By investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, will be investing in our Western New York neighbors, like Allyson, whose mounting health issues forced her to end a 25-year career as a counselor. She currently receives a limited Social Security Disability income, but after paying for rent and electricity, she has little money left to feed herself and her two grandchildren, for whom she has primary custody. Allyson relies on the support of one of FeedMore WNY's partner food pantries to access healthy food for her family. She said the food helps them "tremendously" and is grateful that she has somewhere to turn in what she calls a "dire time" in her life.

A new facility will help people like James, who is battling cancer and considers the two nutritious meals per day he receives through FeedMore WNY's home delivered meal program to be a lifeline. But it's not just the delicious, ready-to-eat meals that James looks forward to -- it's the friendships provided by his home delivered meal volunteers. Since his roommate passed away, James especially looks forward to the friendly smiles and warm greetings given by his volunteers.

Finally, a new facility will help FeedMore WNY better serve children like Winston, a third-grader who looks forward to receiving a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly food each week from his school in partnership with FeedMore WNY's BackPack program. To Winston, the BackPack program means he has yummy animal crackers, juice boxes and peanut butter to snack on when he gets hungry. For his mother, Julie, the BackPack program offers peace of mind when it is tough for her family to make ends meet. Winston wants to be a pilot when he grows up, and the BackPack program helps provide the proper nutrition he needs to grow and thrive.

The Buffalo Urban League has enjoyed a collaborative and productive relationship with FeedMore WNY for many years. FeedMore WNY provides ongoing support to our Full-Service Senior Center and was a critical partner during the height of the pandemic, providing crucial services to the community. We enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY's capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY's lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas Beauford, Jr
President & CEO
March 31, 2022

Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of The Salvation Army in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY — the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500-square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

By investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, will be investing in our Western New York neighbors, like Allyson, whose mounting health issues forced her to end a 25-year career as a counselor. She currently receives a limited Social Security Disability income, but after paying for rent and electricity, she has little money left to feed herself and her two grandchildren, for whom she has primary custody. Allyson relies on the
support of one of FeedMore WNY's partner food pantries to access healthy food for her family. She said the food helps them "tremendously" and is grateful that she has somewhere to turn in what she calls a "dire time" in her life.

A new facility will help people like James, who is battling cancer and considers the two nutritious meals per day he receives through FeedMore WNY's home delivered meal program to be a lifeline. But it's not just the delicious, ready-to-eat meals that James looks forward to -- it's the friendships provided by his home delivered meal volunteers. Since his roommate passed away, James especially looks forward to the friendly smiles and warm greetings given by his volunteers.

Finally, a new facility will help FeedMore WNY better serve children like Winston, a third-grader who looks forward to receiving a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly food each week from his school in partnership with FeedMore WNY's BackPack program. To Winston, the BackPack program means he has yummy animal crackers, juice boxes and peanut butter to snack on when he gets hungry. For his mother, Julie, the BackPack program offers peace of mind when it is tough for her family to make ends meet. Winston wants to be a pilot when he grows up, and the BackPack program helps provide the proper nutrition he needs to grow and thrive.

As a frontline provider, The Salvation Army depends heavily on the food that is collected through FeedMore WNY to meet the needs of those that we serve. The Salvation Army in Buffalo provided over 409,000 meals in 2021 due in great part because of the valuable partnership with FeedMore WNY. The Salvation Army enthusiastically supports FeedMore WNY's capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY's lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Major Annette Lock
Director of Operations – Erie County
The Salvation Army
960 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
April 19, 2022

Chris Jacobs
Congressman, United States
8203 Main Street, Suite 2
Williamsville, NY 14221

Dear Congressman Jacobs,

I write to you in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY. FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Western New York. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to individuals in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a demand for FeedMore WNY’s services.

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members. By investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, will be investing in our Western New York neighbors and I enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY’s capital campaign and facility project.

A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY’s lifesaving programs.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Robert G. Ortt
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District
April 6, 2022

Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of Heart, Love & Soul in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

Heart, Love & Soul is a hunger relief and social care service provider dedicated to feeding those in need - body, mind, and soul. Since 1983, we have provided Niagara Falls residents with wide-reaching programs and services for those in need to utilize at no cost. Heart, Love & Soul works closely with Feedmore, from the monthly Mobile Food Pantry, as well as helping to supplement the food Heart, Love & Soul provides to the Niagara Falls community.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

We enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY’s capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY’s lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Baetzhold
Executive Director
April 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in full support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY. The primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, they partner with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need, and that need is continuing to grow.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and to fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth both through program expansion as well as with the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

Currently, they are operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler, and dry storage space, and unfortunately has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past several years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. Working to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY has worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who have characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74 acre parcel in the Town of Hamburg—the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics, and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

The programs provided by FeedMore WNY are crucial to the residents in my district and throughout WNY. I am in full support of their capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY’s lifesaving programs. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, as always, I welcome your call.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senator, 63rd District
April 13, 2022

Honorable Charles Schumer
Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
Honorable Brian Higgins
Honorable Christopher Jacobs

RE: FeedMore WNY

Dear Niagara County Federal Delegation:

It is my pleasure as Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature to send you this letter in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the organization’s permanent home. Niagara County is just one of the 365 partners that FeedMore works with across WNY to meet the needs of food insecure community members. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for a 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

I know you are all well aware of the positive impact FeedMore has on the communities it serves. They have done a tremendous job in Niagara County and we fully support their efforts to construct a facility that will allow them to better fulfill their important mission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Becky Wydysh
Chairman
Niagara County Legislature
April 18, 2022

Dear Community Leader,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Hamburg in support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, partnering with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. The Town of Hamburg is a proud supporter of FeedMore WNY.

The Merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels of WNY created a streamlined organization to respond to the food security needs of WNY. The Town of Hamburg is proud to host FeedMore WNY as a neighbor and we look forward to future collaboration and partnership.

The Town of Hamburg has financially supported this organization and previously supported Meals on Wheels of WNY. We are grateful for their service to the community and the lifeline they provide for hundreds of Hamburg residents.

We enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY’s capital campaign* and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY’s lifesaving programs. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition to enhance the community.

Sincerely,

Randall A Hoak
Town Supervisor
Hamburg, New York

*Endorsement of the Feedmore WNY capital campaign is in no way a commitment to provide for future funding or operating costs of the organization.

RH:ml
April 18, 2022

Mr. Matt McAfee, Chair
FeedMore WNY
100 James E. Casey Drive
Buffalo, NY 14206

Dear Chairman McAfee,

I write today in strong support of FeedMore WNY’s project to build a centralized facility that will serve as the permanent home for FeedMore WNY.

FeedMore WNY is the primary hunger-relief organization in Western New York, collaborating with a network of 365 agencies to serve food insecure community members of all ages and backgrounds throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties. In 2021, FeedMore WNY distributed enough food to provide 12.8 million meals to Western New York neighbors in need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of New Yorkers lost their jobs and an unprecedented number of households struggled with food insecurity. FeedMore Western New York not only distributed nutritious food, but they provided meaningful companionship and nutrition counseling to the most vulnerable and socially isolated.

FeedMore WNY was born from the 2019 merger of the Food Bank of WNY and Meals on Wheels for WNY in order to better serve hungry neighbors of all ages and fill gaps in service. The merger led to organic growth through both program expansion and the number of people served. The pandemic and its resulting spike in demand for FeedMore WNY’s services have led to a reality where its facilities are stretched far beyond capacity.

The nonprofit is currently operating out of two Buffalo facilities located at 91 Holt Street (office and warehouse) and 100 James E. Casey Drive (office and commercial meal production facility). These separate locations offer no opportunities for expansion and create significant challenges, inefficiencies and loss of productivity. FeedMore WNY is borrowing and renting freezer, cooler and dry storage space, and tragically has had to turn away approximately 1.2 million pounds of food in the past couple years because it cannot store or repack the food safely. As it determined what to do to fix some of these challenges, FeedMore WNY worked with external design and logistics firm LIDD, who characterized its current facility situation as “simply dire.”

After leading an exhaustive search for a future facility, FeedMore WNY purchased a 74-acre parcel in Hamburg, NY – the approximate geographic center of its service area. Preliminary plans for a centralized facility call for an 184,500 square-foot building, which will allow for
greater productivity, better product utilization, improved logistics and additional leveraging of resources. The new facility will allow FeedMore WNY to expand its volunteer corps and create jobs. Most importantly, it will enable the growth of its feeding programs and RISE workforce development program to better serve vulnerable community members.

By investing in a new FeedMore WNY facility, you will be investing in our Western New York neighbors, like Allyson, whose mounting health issues forced her to end a 25-year career as a counselor. She currently receives a limited Social Security Disability income, but after paying for rent and electricity, she has little money left to feed herself and her two grandchildren, for whom she has primary custody. Allyson relies on the support of one of FeedMore WNY's partner food pantries to access healthy food for her family. She said the food helps them "tremendously" and is grateful that she has somewhere to turn in what she calls a "dire time" in her life.

A new facility will help people like James, who is battling cancer and considers the two nutritious meals per day he receives through FeedMore WNY's home delivered meal program to be a lifeline. However, it is not just the delicious, ready-to-eat meals that James looks forward to. It is the friendships provided by his home delivered meal volunteers. Since his roommate passed away, James especially looks forward to the friendly smiles and warm greetings given by his volunteers.

Finally, a new facility will help FeedMore WNY better serve children like Winston, a third-grader who looks forward to receiving a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly food each week from his school in partnership with FeedMore WNY's BackPack program. To Winston, the BackPack program means he has yummy animal crackers, juice boxes and peanut butter to snack on when he gets hungry. For his mother, Julie, the BackPack program offers peace of mind when it is tough for her family to make ends meet. Winston wants to be a pilot when he grows up, and the BackPack program helps provide the proper nutrition he needs to grow and thrive.

As Ranking Member of the Senator Agriculture Committee, I know how important it is to ensure New York families benefit from fresh, locally grown produce. It is also very important for our state's food security. Therefore, I enthusiastically support FeedMore WNY's capital campaign and facility project. A new FeedMore WNY facility will be a critical investment in Western New York and the neighbors who rely on FeedMore WNY's lifesaving programs.

I look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

Please accept my best wishes. Do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

George M. Borrello
Senator, 57th District

GMB/jas