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Mr. Robert Hoffman  
AARP  
Vice President NE Region  
435 E. Henrietta Road  
Rochester, NY 14620

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

On behalf of the County of Chemung, I am pleased to offer this letter of our ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly environment and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Chemung County recognizes the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living; and is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality.

The Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care launched a Community Empowerment initiative with county-wide support in 2009. Over 500 residents participated in a year-long planning process to identify and pursue activities that promote successful aging and improve quality of life for all ages. Over 180 action plans are underway to improve quality of life in the areas of civic engagement, health care and human services, economic development, housing and transportation. Creating Health Places to Live, Work and Play, a broad-based community coalition of over 30 partners that represents some of the initiatives promoted by Community Empowerment, is actively pursuing sustainable policy systems and environmental changes that make Chemung County a healthier place to live.

We have developed a strong framework to build upon in addressing the World Health Organization's eight domains that help influence the health and quality of life of older people. We look forward to joining this global network of communities committed to giving their older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives.

Thank you for your consideration of membership for Chemung County to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Santulli  
Chemung County Executive