

**Town of Big Flats**  
Supervisor Edward Fairbrother  
476 Maple Street  
Big Flats, NY 14814  
efairbrother@bigflatsny.gov



Phone (607)562-8443 ext 204

Fax (607)562-7063

Beth Finkel  
State Director  
AARP  
780 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave – 33<sup>rd</sup> floor  
NY, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Finkel,

I am writing this letter to express our interest in applying for membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. [Municipality] is committed to a process of continual improvement to support active and healthy aging and sustain economic and social vitality. We recognize the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies to address changing demographics and to enhance independent living.

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.

Our county has 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. Chemung County, the City of Elmira and the Town of Elmira have all been admitted into the Network and have launched a year-long planning process to develop a plan that addresses each domain. We have been invited to join their effort and we look forward to joining the global network of communities committed to giving their older residents the opportunity to live rewarding, productive and safe lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Fairbrother", is written over a horizontal line.

Edward Fairbrother