



ONEIDA COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
County Executive
ce@ocgov.net

December 28, 2016

Paul Krugman
The New York Times
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear Mr. Krugman,

As the Oneida County Executive, where the City of Utica resides, I was disappointed in a series of tweets you sent recently in regards to my County. You showed an interest in an article outlining a recent economic development project and haphazardly let people know of a failed attempt to revive a depressed region. You also let people know that a reason you cannot revive this area is because of the weather. I expected a more thoughtful and researched response from someone of your supposed caliber

You mentioned in your tweets to, 2 2 million people, that you lived in the Utica area until you were 8. You should take note of the many things that have happened since you left in the early 1960's. I invite you to not only research it but to actually return and see it.

In the past 10 years, we have gone from an area that was lacking private investment and crumbling infrastructure to one new business and rebuilt infrastructure and the eyesores of the past removed. We have seen our urban downtowns recover with relocated business, loft apartments, new restaurants and attractions.

We are an area invested in a new technology economy. We have a growing airport that is NY State's FAA Test Site for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) bringing worldwide attention to Oneida County. Tech Firms from around the globe have focused on our region as a leader in cyber security, including companies like AIS, who continues to grow here.

Our educational institutions have embraced our new economy and have become active partners in our growth. Our Community College, MVCC, became the first to have a curriculum on UAS and we have invested over 20 million in a new campus. Utica College is a national leader who reduced tuition while being a trailblazer for cyber-security research.

We are a leader in tourism. Our Utica Memorial Auditorium has sellout of Utica Comets and Utica College hockey. The Oneida Nation's Turning Stone Resort and Casino is five star and helps makes this region the number 1 tourist location in all of NY State

In addition to these unique tourist attractions we lead the way in NY State in outdoor 4 season recreational tourism, including skiing and snowmobiling which is based on that winter weather you seem to think is such an economic deterrent.

We are embarking on a building a new state of the art hospital in the heart of Utica. Our agricultural strength continues to grow as we invest in agri-tourism, agricultural companies while developing a new agricultural business incubator which will accompany our existing business incubator options here in Oneida County.

Meanwhile, we still have the number one site for nanotechnology in the United States and there will be a chip fab manufacturer located here in the near future.

There is much more to highlight and outline for you about the promise of our region, including our refugee population, Air Force Research Laboratory, Griffiss Business Technology Park and many others. I invite you to come and join me so you can see everything this area has to offer and relay an accurate and informed assessment to the millions of people who listen to what you have to say about economics and NY State.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience. You can reach me at my office, 315-798-5800

Regards



Anthony J. Picente Jr
Oneida County Executive