



ONEIDA COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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County Executive  
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Nov. 29, 2018  
Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The recent announcement of Amazon locating to New York City is something that has been discussed about ad nauseam. Everyone has an opinion on whether the costs outweigh the benefits for New York City. However, that is not the purpose of this letter. I believe it is imperative that if the State of New York is committed to a project of this cost and magnitude that we work together to create real plans on how Upstate New York can benefit from one of the world's largest companies expanding in our backyard.

To that end, I believe there are strong pieces throughout upstate where Amazon can work with us and our universities to achieve win-win investments for our communities and the company. Areas such as research and development, job training, a commitment to hire upstate workers and bringing more fulfillment centers to upstate, just to name a few.

In Oneida County there is a natural fit that I believe must be explored between all parties. Amazon has been clear they intend to be a leader in developing an unmanned aerial vehicle fleet that would revolutionize package delivery. The best place in the nation to do just that is in the City Rome.

Griffiss International Airport in partnership with the Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance (NUAIR) is home to one of only seven federally authorized sites for drone testing. In addition, we are building an indoor test site, as well as creating an unmanned traffic management corridor between Rome and Syracuse, the first of its kind in the nation. This will be integral to any company looking to do what Amazon intends to with drone technology. Federal, state and county governments are already heavily invested in the technology being developed at this test site. NUAIR and Griffiss are national leaders in this research and have seen companies flock here to test drones over the past five years. Amazon is in a perfect position to now do the same.

We should work together to encourage Amazon to center the entirety of their drone testing and R&D efforts here in Oneida County. This leverages hundreds of millions of dollars in federal, state and local investments already being made as well as creating high paying jobs in central New York around an emerging high tech industry. This makes too much sense not to pursue.

I look forward to discussing this one of a kind opportunity with you at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

  
Anthony J. Picente Jr.  
Oneida County Executive

Cc/ Mayor Bill DeBlasio