



CHEMUNG COUNTY LEGISLATURE

John H. Hazlett Building - 5th Floor
203 LAKE STREET
P.O. BOX 588
ELMIRA, NEW YORK 14902-0588
TELEPHONE: (607) 737-2850
FAX: (607) 737-2851

MARK MARGESON
CHAIRMAN

Megan E. Hill
CLERK

September 22, 2025

Hon. Christopher Moss
Chemung County Executive
203 Lake Street
P.O. Box 588
Elmira, NY 14902-0588

Dear County Executive Moss:

The Chemung County Legislature is in receipt of your communication of June 30, 2025 to the City of Elmira providing purported notice of your intent to terminate the shared services agreement with City. We, the Leadership of the Chemung County Legislature, write to you to express our opposition to your plan to terminate that agreement.

As you are well aware, the City is experiencing financial straits, and your plan to shift back to the City employees and responsibilities currently performed by the County pursuant to the shared services agreement you intend to cancel will place further stress on a municipality already on the brink of historic tax increases, intervention by the State Comptroller, and/or bankruptcy. Rather than terminate that agreement, we would encourage cooperative discussion with the City about ways to make the agreement work better for the County and the City. The Chemung County Legislature stands ready to participate in these discussions, and to issue any resolutions required to implement amendments to the shared services agreement negotiated and approved by all parties.

The City of Elmira is our county seat. The Legislature, the County Executive's Office, the IDA, and many other public and private organizations are all attempting to retain existing businesses, encourage outside investment in our community, and attract businesses and organizations to our community with the goal of retention and creation of good paying jobs for our residents. It becomes much harder to convince businesses and organizations to invest their dollars and resources here when the county seat is on the verge of bankruptcy. For the sake of all residents of Chemung County and the future job prospects of their sons and daughters, we call upon you to revisit your purported

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VICE CHAIRMAN
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MARK MARGESON
CHAIRMAN
District 6
JOSEPH DONOVAN
District 7
JIM PALMER
District 8
STEVEN PICKERING
District 9
JOHN BURIN
MAJORITY LEADER
District 10
MARTIN D. CHALK
District 11
BRENT A. STERMER
MINORITY LEADER
District 12
WILLIAM McCARTHY
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District 15
RODNEY J. STRANGE



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notice of intent to terminate the shared serves agreement and, instead, participate in discussions with the City and Legislature about ways to make the agreement work better for all parties moving forward.

Sincerely,

The Leadership of the Chemung County Legislature

Mark Margeson, Chairman, Chemung County Legislature
L. Thomas Sweet, Vice-Chairman, Chemung County Legislature
John Burin, Majority Leader, Chemung County Legislature
Brent A. Stermer, Minority Leader, Chemung County Legislature
Martin D. Chalk, Chemung County Legislator, District 10

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