



# Broome County Environmental Management Council

Debra A. Preston, County Executive

January 21, 2013

Frank Evangelisti, Chief Planner  
Broome County Department of Planning  
P.O. Box 1766  
Binghamton, NY 13902

Dear Mr. Evangelisti:

We are pleased support your application for a Land Bank in Broome County. As you know, the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is the citizen advisory board to county government on environmental matters. Through that role, the EMC has contributed to and supported several initiatives at the County level that would be greatly enhanced by a useful tool such as a land bank.

The EMC was a fundamental part of the development of the County's Brownfields Program which has been instrumental in efforts to redevelop abandoned and underutilized sites. A Broome County Land Bank would be a great tool to help implement the vision developed through community input during the planning process under this program.

Furthermore, the EMC has long supported the issue of smart growth and open space planning, as well as the preservation of natural areas for flood mitigation. This tool may also serve to help achieve these goals as they are outlined in existing plans and programs, such as the Open Space Plan (in development by the EMC), the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, and the Hazard Mitigation Plan, among others, by converting vacant properties that have been neglected into productive use rather than promoting the development of green spaces.

Too often prominent properties that are vital to the implementation of County and municipal programs and plans such as these are sent to immediate auction, without an opportunity to assess whether they are integral to achieving the vision outlined for our community through careful planning efforts, or to assess whether funding can be obtained through grant applications or other means. A Broome County Land Bank would be an excellent mechanism to ensure that these opportunities are not lost and that plans are implemented as intended for the benefit of county residents and businesses.

The EMC is pleased to offer you our support for the development of a Broome County Land Bank and we look forward to the results of its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Heaviside". To the right of the signature, the initials "BAL" are written.

William Heaviside  
Chair-Elect, Broome County EMC

BH/bal