

# Butternut Valley Alliance supports plan for food, beverage hub

The Butternut Valley Alliance is an association of residents of the Butternut Valley, which principally comprises the towns of Butternuts, Morris, New Lisbon, Burlington, and Exeter. Our mission is to protect and conserve the environmental qualities, farming, economic development and cultural heritage in the Butternut Creek watershed.

In furtherance of that mission, one of our objectives is to encourage and facilitate the growth and development of local agriculture. In our view, the proposed Food & Beverage Innovation Center in the city of Oneonta has the potential to be a tremendous boon to local agriculture. Its benefits would be felt not just in the city and town of Oneonta but also in outlying rural communities, like ours here in the Butternut Valley.

We hope, therefore, that not only Oneontans but also residents of Otsego County's rural communities will get behind this important project. We, the residents of rural communities, should be speaking out in support of the Food & Beverage Innovation Center. If readers are not familiar with the project, they can learn more at <http://otsegonow.com/projects/market-street/>.

Consistent with our mission, we also urge Otsego Now and the city of Oneonta to ensure that the impacts of other aspects of the DRI projects benefit local businesses and residents, including by engaging local developers, suppliers, contractors, etc., to the maximum extent possible.