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September 10, 2026

Honorable Claudia Tenney
Congresswoman, 24th District
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tenney:

On behalf of the Oswego County Legislature, I am writing to express our strong support for the designation of Fort Ontario and the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter as a unit of the National Park System.

Fort Ontario is more than a historic landmark in Oswego County. It is a place where the story of our nation comes to life. From its military history dating back to the French and Indian War, through the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and World War II, Fort Ontario has played an important role in the history of our country.

Most significantly, from 1944 to 1946, Fort Ontario became the only refugee shelter in the United States for European refugees fleeing the Holocaust. Nearly 1,000 men, women and children found safety at Fort Ontario, making Oswego an important part of the national and international story of the Holocaust and America's response to those fleeing persecution.

This designation would ensure that this remarkable history receives the national recognition, preservation and educational reach it deserves. It would also provide an opportunity for visitors from across the country and around the world to experience firsthand the stories of courage, resilience, freedom and hope that are woven into Fort Ontario's history.

We greatly appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to Fort Ontario and Safe Haven. Your efforts have helped bring this important issue to the national stage, and we respectfully ask that you continue working with our congressional delegation to secure passage of the legislation establishing Fort Ontario as a National Historical Park.

Oswego County is proud of Fort Ontario and its place in American history. We stand ready to support you and our federal partners in seeing this important designation become a reality.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Oswego County and to preserving this important chapter of our nation's history.

Sincerely,

James Weatherup
Chairman, Oswego County Legislature