## St. Lawrence County Board of Ethics

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July 11, 2013

Hon. Jonathan S. Putney, Chair St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators 48 Court Street Canton, New York 13617

## Dear Chair Putney:

As required in Article 15, Section 7 of the St. Lawrence Country Ethics Law, this document is the Annual Report for the period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 of the activities of the St. Lawrence County Board of Ethics. In 2012:

- 1. We continued with the established ethics training procedure for current and future country employees.
- 2. We completed a systematic review of the St. Lawrence Country Ethics Law. Our recommendations concerning proposed changes in the law were sent to the Country Legislature for its consideration. So far no action has been taken.
- 3. We responded to two requests for advisory opinions and one complaint.
- 4. We reviewed the Annual Disclosure Statements submitted by county employees and county policy makers as required by the St. Lawrence Country Ethics Law.
- 5. We reviewed the disclosure statements submitted by the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

The members of the Board continue to be frustrated by the disclosure statement designed and promulgated by the IDA. Although we realize the IDA has the legislative mandate to design its own form, we find the form lacking in substance. With the increased emphasis across the country

on ethics reform, we hoped the IDA would adopt a disclosure statement similar to the form prescribed by the St. Lawrence Country Ethics Law. We believe openness about possible conflicts of interest instills confidence in government and government agencies.

Very truly yours,

David E. Hornung | mz David E. Hornung, Chair

St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators