February 27, 2025

Dear Select Boards:

Thank you for allowing me to come to your meetings to inform the public about the public referendum vote that will take place on Monday, March 24th. I hope that my presentation was informative not only regarding the infrastructure MCA grant but also about what adult education strives to do in your communities.

I am writing because I was misinformed about why Franklin County Adult Education stopped leasing 11 years ago in downtown Farmington. I spoke to the former finance director, and the former superintendent who both said that DOE stopped reimbursing for the leased space that Adult Education occupied in preparation of the Capital Project Fund but this did not prohibit leasing it simply stopped the reimbursement. The superintendent and the board voted to not continue the downtown lease because it was no longer a reimbursable expense.

In summary, receiving the capital improvement funds did not stop adult education from leasing. In 2010 and still to this day, the goal is to <u>not</u> raise local taxes, so leasing would still be off the table for Adult Education. We hope to have your support to purchase the Ingalls Building which we believe will generate its own revenue through leasing to non-profits and state agencies to create a Community Resource Hub.

Again, thank you for taking the time to hear and understand the Connectivity Resourcer HUB grant initiative. We will have a public comment on 3/11@ Mt. Blue High School at 6:00pm. The public referendum vote is March 24, 2025.

My Best,

Mary Redmond-Luce

Mary Redmond-Luce, Director Franklin County Adult and Community Education Center