

BARKEN, FREDERICK
7-27-17

Frederick M. Barken, M. D.
125 Genung Circle
Ithaca, NY 14850

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Frederick Barken** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jul 12, 2017 at 7:45 AM
Subject: To the Town Board Re: Proposed Solar Installation
To: [REDACTED]

To the Dryden Planning Board:

A few signs along Ellis Hollow Road, adjacent to the proposed solar array site, protest against "industrial" solar. The specious use of the word "industrial" is meant to conjure an image of the loud, dirty, and unhealthy smokestack industries of a past century. Nothing could be further from the truth. A commercial solar facility quietly and cleanly will provide needed electric power, while adding measurably to Dryden's tax base and enhancing the lives of all our residents who drive our roads, attend our schools, or breathe our air. The quality of life for *all of* Dryden far outweighs the protection of property value and the view for a few.

The small town of Dryden achieved national notoriety when it bravely and successfully fended against hydrofracking. We proved that, regardless of enormous energy industry influence brought to bear on state and federal government, local residents have a say in the future of their town and the environment we leave to our children. Approval of a commercial solar farm takes this to the next logical step: embracing a safe and responsible form of local energy production.

Decades from now, perhaps when some other energy technology emerges, the Dryden solar array can be dismantled and recycled, allowing that land to be restored as an open field, leaving no trace and no toxic waste. Dryden residents of our time, however, will be remembered for having taken the high road, doing our part to set a new national energy policy, starting here and now. I intend to support and vote for those Town Board members with the vision to do what is right for us all. It's time.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Barken, M. D.

Frederick M. Barken, M. D.
125 Genung Circle
Ithaca, NY 14850



BARKEN
7-27-17

Dear members of the Dryden Planning Board:

The voters in my family would all like to express our STRONG support for the proposed solar projects. We were very pleased that the Board UNANIMOUSLY approved the SEQR environmental review for Distributed Sun's excellent proposals. The proposed solar projects are the way forward for the future. We have lived in the town of Dryden for 27 years, and this is the first time we've seen Cornell University willing to invest in a project that will yield tax revenue for the community. This is a terrific opportunity for Dryden to take a progressive stand in tune with Governor Cuomo's stated commitment to pursue clean energy. The proposed site plans appropriately mitigate the concerns of neighboring landowners, and the projects are well designed. We urge you NOT TO DELAY.

We cannot attend tonight's meeting due to another commitment, but please convey my family's sentiments to the full board. We urge you to APPROVE the solar projects at tonight's meeting. Thank you, Marlene, Frederick and David Barken

BATT, ROSEMARY
7-27-17

PLEASE MOVE DRYDEN SOLAR ALONG - DON'T DELAY

Rosemary Batt [REDACTED]

Rosemary Batt, Editor, *ILR Review*
Chair, HR Studies Department
Alice H. Cook Professor of Women and Work
ILR School, Cornell University, 188 Ives Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

[REDACTED]

Bittner, Todd
7-19-17

From: Todd Bittner [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 4:42 PM
To: Supervisor; Daniel Lamb; Deborah Cipolla-Dennis; Kathy Servoss; Linda Lavine
Cc: Bambi Avery
Subject: Sun8 PDC LLC Public Hearing

Dear Dryden Town Board Members,

I am writing to you as a Town of Dryden resident to voice my **support for the proposed SUN8PDC, LLC special use permit**, and urge you to approve the application to help combat climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

I ask that my comments be included in the Public Hearing's public record.

Best regards,

Todd Bittner
533 Ringwood Road
Freeville, NY 13068

BROOKS, MARJORY
7-27-17

in support of dryen solar

Marjory Brooks 

Dear Board Members,

I'm a Dryden resident (501 Ellis Hollow Creek Road) and I hope you will do all you can to speed the approval process for the Distributed Sun solar projects.

I've transitioned off fossil fuels for heating and electricity in my home working with Renovus solar and I feel this is a critical time to expand solar capacity in our town ASAP!

This is a very important issue for me and I'm eager to support in any way I can.

Thanks very much,
Marjory Brooks

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2017

DRYDEN TOWN CLERK

EDWARD W. & NANCY E. COUCH

*67 Nelson Road
Dryden, New York 13053*

7/12/2017

Town of Dryden Planning Board Members
Town Board Members
93 East Main Street
Dryden, New York 13053

Dear Planning & Town Board Members,

Enclosed are two copies of letters sent in April 2017, concerning the Mega Solar Farm at 2150 Dryden Road.

After further research and talking with other Town Residents, our stance has not changed as to the location of a Mega Solar Farm. Not against solar, but it should definitely not be at 2150 Dryden Road(next door to the historic Willow Glen Cemetery). **VOTE NO TO THIS LOCATION!**

Sincerely, *Edward W. Couch*
Nancy E. Couch

Edward W. & Nancy E. Couch
Lifelong Residents Town of Dryden

Edward W. Couch

87 Yellow Barn Road
Proville, New York
13068-9667

Town of Dryden Planning Board Members
Town Board Members
93 East Main Street
Dryden, New York 13053

Dear Planning & Town Board Members,

I am a US Navy Veteran and a current lot owner at the Willow Glen Cemetery. Already resting there, my Parents (Dad a World War I Veteran), a Brother (World War II Veteran) and many other Veterans. I believe you the Board Members of the Town of Dryden and the Planning Board should respect those Veterans as well as all others and vote **NO** to a mega solar project and cell tower at 2150 Dryden Road.

The Cemetery is a sacred place and the view to the North and East should remain in the natural setting that has existed for the last several hundred years. I made a point of checking the Solar Farm at Cornell's Harford Farm and definitely do not believe we need anything like that as a neighbor to our Cemetery, no matter how many feet they are set back from property line.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Couch
Lifelong Resident Town of Dryden
~~COPY/4-18-17~~

NANCY E. COUCH
57 York Street
Dryden, New York 13820

4/18/2017

Town of Dryden Planning Board Members
Town Board Members
93 East Main Street
Dryden, New York 13053

Dear Planning & Town Board Members,

I firmly believe "There is a time and a place for everything!", and that 2150 Dryden Road is definitely not the place for a mega solar project or cell tower.

I am a current lot owner at the Willow Glen Cemetery, as well as having Parents and Grandparent already resting there. In my eyes a Cemetery should be a serene, tranquil area as it is today. I strongly urge you to vote NO to a mega solar project and cell tower at 2150 Dryden Road.

Sincerely,

Nancy E. Couch
Lifelong Resident Town of Dryden

Davies, Peter
July 18, 2017

From: Peter J. Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Bambi Avery; Daniel Lamb; Deborah Cipolla-Dennis; Kathy Servoss; Linda Lavine; Supervisor
Subject: Re: Please approve the solar installations

To the Dryden Town Board:

Further to my observations below on the documentation provided in the SUN8 application I note further information provided on July 7th. In it the company further demonstrates consideration of requests by citizens including shorter screening vegetation to avoid obscuring the view, and pollinator-friendly reseeding. I consider that the company has gone above and beyond the requirements to ensure that their installations are both environmentally and community compatible. I urge approval of both solar installation proposals.

Peter Davies

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 10, 2017, at 08:19, Peter J. Davies [REDACTED] wrote:

To the Dryden Town Board:

I have examined the latest documents presented by SUN8 (Distributed Sun) and attended an information meeting. I consider that the projects are reasonable, appropriately sited, and beneficial to the community and the global environment. They will provide electricity on a substantial local scale to offset some carbon emissions and counter global climate change. I believe the main objections are to the visual effects, but the simulation photographs provided by the company indicate that the visual effects will be minimal and the installations will be screened by vegetation hedges. Even the effect on the horizon will be negligible compared to the current and growing presence of trees; however the Town Board could insist on lower growing shrubs than currently envisioned or require that they be mechanically topped at a certain height. The company has made every effort to accommodate objections to the visual effects by adding setbacks of the installations. In response to a request from the Conservation Board the company consultant returned to the sites in summer for a further biological inventory: nothing of special interest of significance was found. The intensity of this biological assessment may not satisfy some, but there was no indication that an ever-more-detailed survey would in any way change the overall conclusion – this is an installation over meadow (or what will be meadow) and meadow vegetation and fauna will continue to survive there; it is not an installation of a sterile housing development of similar use change. There is no need for further delaying

studies given the suitability of the sites, the mitigation efforts by the company, and the barriers to other locations as a result of a lack of availability of grid connections in other locations. I urge the Town Board to approve the installation of these solar projects for immediate installation.

Thank you.

Peter Davies

(Written as a private citizen and not on behalf of any group to which I may belong)

Peter J. Davies
755 Snyder Hill Road
Ithaca, NY 14850-8708



Davies, Peter
7-19-17

From: Peter J. Davies [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 12:35 PM
To: Bambi Avery; Daniel Lamb; Deborah Cipolla-Dennis; Kathy Servoss; Linda Lavine; Supervisor
Subject: Re: Please approve the solar installations

To the Dryden Town Board:

Further to my observations below on the documentation provided in the SUN8 application I note further information provided on July 7th. In it the company further demonstrates consideration of requests by citizens including shorter screening vegetation to avoid obscuring the view, and pollinator-friendly reseeding. I consider that the company has gone above and beyond the requirements to ensure that their installations are both environmentally and community compatible. I urge approval of both solar installation proposals.

Peter Davies

The article below, from interviews with many climate scientists, presents a sobering account of what is in store if we don't act to counteract global warming by reducing our carbon footprint. Think globally - act locally!

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans.html>

Evett, Elisa
7-17-17

From: Elisa Evett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Daniel Lamb; Deborah Cipolla-Dennis; Bambi Avery; Kathy Servoss; Linda Lavine; Supervisor
Subject: Distributed Sun application

Dear members of the Dryden Town Board,

I am unable to attend the July 20th meeting to be devoted to considering Distributed Sun's application for a Special Use Permit to construct two community solar farms in the town of Dryden and therefore I would like to use this means to express support for this project.

I have followed this evolution of this project for some time now and am aware of the objections of many town residents to the project. I find their objections without merit in the light of the larger and far more important question of the threat of climate change to the planet shared by all of us.

I have been very impressed by Distributed Sun's respectful, conscientious response to the objections to the project. They have spent much time and thought in order to alter their original plans in order to accommodate the view shed and environmental concerns expressed by these residents. They have demonstrated a sensitivity to community concerns that must be a rarity for a corporation of its size. They have skillfully juggled all of the considerations in this complex project. The town of Dryden should be grateful for this opportunity to bring such a forward-thinking project to the community. Please grant this company its Special Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Elisa Evett

Gershon, Lily

7-27-17

To members of the Planning Board,

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting but I am writing to ask that you vote yes to the proposed Dryden Solar Project without much delay. Please share my message with the rest of the board.

I understand that there are many folks who oppose this project, and I feel sympathy toward these people in our community. I understand that they will be affected by this change, and that changes that feel sudden and large can be difficult. Many of them are not against solar power, but feel that this is too large a project. In an ideal situation, I would agree that moving slowly would be best. However, we are in a critical situation in our world. It is not any individual's fault that our environment has gotten to this point, but the reality is that many people today are living next to projects such as coal mining, fracking and other energy production that is not simply a bad view, but a serious health risk. We need to consider this reality. Even though I believe we all want our town to remain beautiful, and not a place of big industrial sites, the beauty of our habitat is only going to get much worse, and negatively affect our health if we don't make big changes quickly. Solar panels may not be beautiful to all, but at least we know they won't be a health risk, and even help make changes for people who do have to live near the serious impacts caused by other energy sources. It is a sacrifice I would gladly make if it was my backyard, and I sincerely hope the board moves forward. Move ahead with sympathy for the people who oppose, but please vote yes soon.

Thank you,
Lily Gershon
Freeville resident since 2008

To: The Dryden Town Board

From: David Weinstein, 51 Freese Road, Dryden

The decision on these projects should be based on a careful evaluation of what is best for our community, and not on a count of those vocally for or against the project.

However, to give some sense of the opinions that have been voiced, a count of the opinions voiced on each solar project in letters and emails to town and on petitions to the town was compiled by Martin Hatch, who is unfortunately sick tonight and isn't able to present these results himself.

Here are the results:

Ellis Tract- (288 opinions stated)

Opinions in support of project: 81% (233 of 288)

Opinions against project: 19% (55 of 288)

Opinions from Dryden residents in support of project: 68% (108 of 159)

Opinions from Dryden residents against project: 32% (51 of 159)

2150 Dryden Road- (336 opinions stated)

Opinions in support of project: 70% (233 of 336)

Opinions against project: 30% (103 of 336)

Opinions from Dryden residents in support of project: 59% (108 of 184)

Opinions from Dryden residents against project: 41% (76 of 184)

If a letter or petition stated that the writer or signer was against the proposed solar projects in Dryden, it was counted separately as a vote against each of the projects. Conversely, if it stated that it was for the solar projects, it was counted as a vote for each of the projects.

If a letter named only one project specifically, it was counted in the tally for that project alone.

Consequently, a single letter could have generated 2 separate votes.

Finally, Marty made an effort to determine whether the writer or signer was a resident of Dryden, although these decisions affect people throughout our County and therefore all have a right to have their opinions considered.

Sarah Marcham and Christopher Lowe
131 Upper Creek Rd.
Freeville, NY 13068

July 27, 2017

Dear Dryden Town Board Members & Dryden Planning Board Members,

We would like to voice our support for the Distributed Sun solar projects proposed for the Town of Dryden. We are 29-year residents of Dryden. We raised our children here, invested in our property, and we both work in Dryden. Chris owns a cabinet-making business based in Freeville and Sarah teaches in the Dryden Central School district. We have invested in solar hot water and solar electric panels for our home in an effort to be responsible stewards of the land. Here are three reasons that we hope will convince you to give this project the go-ahead: one environmental, one economic, and one aesthetic.

Environmental For the health of the planet, America needs to be proactive in developing alternatives to carbon-based energy sources. Governments, scientists, and business leaders around the world are swiftly moving to tackle this issue. The United States, New York State, Tompkins County, and even Dryden cannot sit idly by and watch as others come up with solutions. We must accept that our energy future will include a balance of carbon-based fuels, wind, solar, water, and other sources that we probably cannot yet imagine. We hope our leaders will help residents see the advantages in being a forward-looking community that is willing to work with businesses to protect the environment.

Economic Dryden residents often complain that we have too few sources of revenue. It is our understanding that these projects will generate tax income. If this land is not usable for other purposes, why not put it to use for solar collection? This income will come without continual truck traffic, use of water resources, or pollution. We could welcome this business alternative to farming or manufacturing as a way to generate revenue.

Aesthetic We have heard that some find the solar arrays unappealing and even offensive to those at rest in our local cemetery. We don't see it that way. This will be a quiet place with little traffic. When we die, lay us down in a place that welcomed change and was not content to keep things as they are, that sought a solution to carbon-based fuels. We note that numerous self-storage businesses line our roadways, most of them highly visible. We have not heard that residents had much interest in the siting, landscaping, design, color choices, or visual appeal of these businesses. Yet these two solar projects seem to be activating public participation for other reasons. With reasonable allowances made by Distributed Sun to lower the visual impact, we hope that the project can be made acceptable to residents.

Thank you for considering our opinions regarding this project. We appreciate your service on behalf of the residents of Dryden and your willingness to hear our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Sarah Marcham and Christopher Lowe

Midura, Alan
6-4-17

From: alan midura [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2017 7:01 PM
To: Bambi Avery
Subject: Dryden Solar development

I want to write in support of the planned solar farms in Dryden. When my wife and I decided to move to Dryden a factor was Dryden's anti-fracking stance. I liked Dryden's rural character and its progressive attitude. Now we have an opportunity to be a state leader in a private-public partnership with Cornell and a solar company to provide local, sustainable electric power that would lower the cost for many Dryden residents. The governor of New York has committed our state to increase renewable energy and there will be grants available. Being a leader in solar energy would put Dryden in a good position to obtain grants and increase our solar and local energy production. I think it is a win-win situation for our community.

Alan Midura, M.D.

Ray Burger – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

Calling for a Moratorium on Large Scale/Industrial Solar in Dryden, NY

Petition by Beautiful Dryden · 10 supporters



10 more people signed

[View petition activity](#)

RECENT SUPPORTERS



Timothy Woods

Freeville, NY · May 24, 2017

Industrial solar in NY is not a viable option, especially when we are being forced to just sit on top of a huge petrochemical source of energy.



Edward Wilson

Ithaca, NY · May 17, 2017

Large scale solar is a complex issue. I understand that Tompkins County's energy road map includes 950 megawatts of solar. Not only the town of Dryden but Tompkins County needs to take the time necessary to define town guidelines. I have 40 years of directly applicable experience and would welcome the opportunity to both educate the board and assist with crafting appropriate guidelines.



Susan Reed-Fanfoni

Ithaca, NY · May 17, 2017

I'm signing because i would like this to be a well thought out process that will benefit The town of Dryden residents. My place is located next to the proposed Turkey Hill project. I have concerns about losing the beauty and wildlife of this area.



Kristine Lange

Groton, NY · Jun 14, 2017



Joleen Multari

Ithaca, NY · May 22, 2017

[View all 10 supporters](#)

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. Respond to let the people petitioning you know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information. [Learn more.](#)

This notification was sent to rburger@dryden.ny.us, the address listed as the decision maker contact by the petition starter. If this is incorrect, please [post a response](#) to let the petition starter know.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

Pitzrick, Michael

7-27-17

I've been living in Tompkins County now for forty years, and the Town of Dryden six years. I applaud the efforts to ban hydraulic fracturing and the West Dryden Road pipeline. However, I am shocked and dismayed at the strength of the opposition to the Dryden Solar Projects.

Dryden is poised to do its part to address global climate change, replace part of the tax base that will be lost when Cayuga Power Plant closes, and avoid the environmental pollution caused by the production of fossil fuels. Will Dryden move forward with practical solutions to these problems, or will it snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory by pretending that the few small-scale solar installations paid for by relatively wealthy private citizens will be more than a drop in the bucket. Inaction virtually guarantees that Dryden will continue to get most of its power from fossil fuels.

Please do the right thing! Let community solar in Town of Dryden proceed without delay!

Michael Pitzrick
9 Meadowlark Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850

Russell, Kathy
7-26-17

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am very eager to see the SUN8 solar projects begin in Dryden at the Ellis Hollow Tract and the 2150 Dryden Road Tract. I have followed this project for the last several months and was very pleased that the Town Board unanimously approved the SEQR.

I believe the PB has the data that it needs to accept or reject Distributed Sun's applications. I urge you to do your job and bring the subdivision issue to a vote on Thursday.

Thank you very much for attending to my message.

MARCY SCHAEFFER [REDACTED]

7-26-17

Dear planning board,

My husband and I are in favor of solar power being planned for town of Dryden

Please vote in favor We are not able to make the meeting Thank you, Marcy and

Steve Schaeffer

92 Genung Circle

Town of Dryden

Schmidt, Ellen
7-12-17

From: Ellen Schmidt/ Oskar Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Bambi Avery
Subject: Yes to Dryden Solar

Hi Bambi, Please distribute to all town board members. Thank you for your time and all you do for our town. Ellen

Dear Dryden Town Board members

The quality of life for *all of* Dryden far outweighs the protection of property value and the view for a few. As a little town that blazed a brave trail and stood up to the fossil fuel industry to say what kind of town we do not want to have, we now have the opportunity to take a tangible, future-oriented step to say what kind of town we do want to have. We proved that, regardless of enormous energy industry influence brought to bear on state and federal government, local residents have a say in the future of their town and the environment we leave to our children. Approval of a commercial solar farm is a decision to make a safe and responsible form of local energy production.

A commercial solar installation quietly and cleanly will provide needed electric power, while adding measurably to Dryden's tax base and enhancing the lives of all our residents who drive our roads, attend our schools, or breathe our air.

Perhaps when some other energy technology emerges in the future, the Dryden solar array can be dismantled and recycled with no damage to the land which will be restored, leaving no trace, no toxic waste in our waters or in our air. We will be proud of our role in promoting a renewable, cleaner future for our children and grandchildren. We intend to support and vote for those Town Board members with the vision to do what is right for us all.

Thank you for bearing our views in mind.

Sincerely,
Ellen and Oskar Schmidt

Ellen Schmidt
www.WritingRoomWorkshops.com
Oskar Schmidt
www.OskarSchmidtMassageTherapy.com

ELLEN & OSKAR SCHMIDT
7-27-17

Dear Planning Board Members Moseley, Hatfield, Kiefer, Hatch, Anderson, Wilson, and Weinstein,

After ample time for public input, as you know last week the Dryden Town Board *unanimously* approved the environmental review (SEQR) for the Distributed Sun solar projects in Dryden. According to opinions stated in petitions and letters*, the public wants Dryden Solar.

We can't stick our heads in the sand. Everyone without exception is affected by climate change; everyone without exception has a stake in this decision. We must move forward now to make the changes necessary on a broad scale to meet these challenges. The research work has been done, the plans have been modified to meet resident concerns. It is time now to act reflecting a longer vision for our Town residents and future.

We urge you to do the job for which you have taken responsibility and move forward *now* with Dryden Solar.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen and Oskar Schmidt

8 Genung Circle

Town of Dryden

*Ellis Tract (West side) - 288 opinions stated

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2150 Dryden Road (East side) - 336 opinions stated

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Information collected by Marty Hatch

Ellen Schmidt

www.WritingRoomWorkshops.com

Oskar Schmidt

www.OskarSchmidtMassageTherapy.com

Skaley, James
7-27-17

From: James Skaley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 10:46 AM
To: Bambi Avery
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tonight's Planning Board Meeting

Bambi
Would you please forward this statement to all members of the planning board prior to tonight's meeting.
Greatly appreciated.

Jim Skaley

To Members of the Dryden Planning Board.

I urge you to proceed with approval of the site plan for Sun8 developer for the community solar arrays. This is a development that can benefit all households in the Town of Dryden. Many residents in the Town either cannot afford to implement solar on their rooftops or have poor siting to benefit from solar panels. In addition those who rent can also benefit from subscribing to use the electricity generated.

Now that the Town Board has reviewed and approved the SEQR and after several public meetings where a large majority favored going ahead with this project it is up to the Planning Board to move forward and approve what the developer has already done to made changes to accommodate issues from adjoining land owners.

Not only will residents benefit with lower electrical rates, and a lower carbon footprint, but the town as a whole will benefit from increased tax revenue. Its time to move to approve the site plans post haste. Its also time to approve the subdivision requirement that is imposed as a result of PSC requirement that is under review and may be subject to change to allow larger arrays. Its clear that the benefits greatly exceed any potential loss to a few adjoining landowners who may have their viewscape altered on lands that they have no title to.

I am personally trying to reduce fossil fuel use and hope to use this solar energy in its place since solar panels will not work on my roof. Approving these two facilities is a no-brainer. We all have to do our part in lowering our carbon footprint to fight climate change. What we do today will make the future a more livable environment.

Jim Skaley
940 Dryden Rd

Skaley, James
6-8-17

To: Town of Dryden Town Board

Below is a statement from the March for Science in reaction to the President's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. I wholly support this statement and I urge you all to take the kinds of actions needed to help the Town of Dryden reduce its carbon footprint. I also encourage that your work with surrounding municipalities and Cornell University to determine milestones to increase reduction of green house gases. Number One on the agenda would be to approve the community solar projects. Number two: revise the town building codes to ensure that new construction involving residential and commercial buildings follow the current "best practices" for energy efficiency and minimal carbon footprint. Number Three: Complete the Varna trail project. Number Four encourage and work with TCat to expand its bus service and develop park and ride opportunities to reduce commuter traffic. Number Five: Push Cornell real-estate to develop staff and faculty housing on Cornell lands near campus and/or near the Dryden trail network to reduce car travel and encourage bike and pedestrian use.

Aside from the last point, these are all doable in the next couple of years--and each of these would begin the work of reducing our carbon footprint in the Town.

Regards,

Jim Skaley

[March for Science Statement on the United States' Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement](#)

[June 01, 2017](#) by [March for Science](#)

Science was ignored today. The decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement stands in stark opposition to the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is a real and active threat to communities around the world and to future generations. In addition, the fact that this decision was made without the input of a Presidential science advisor -- a position that, like most of the key scientific leadership positions in the Administration, remains unfilled -- is deeply troubling to all those who care about the role of science in informing policy.

The United States' withdrawal from this global agreement is completely out of step with the views of a majority of Americans in all 50 states who [support participation in the Paris Agreement](#), as well as the findings of social scientists that show action on climate change can bolster economies. It surrenders America's role as a leader in the fight against climate change and betrays our responsibility to not only the more than 190 countries that joined together for this unprecedented action to protect our health and prosperity, but also the already vulnerable communities that will suffer disproportionately in the face of inaction.

Further, the decision ignores the voices of the more than one million people in 600 communities around the world who marched to support the role of science in policy-making.

The March for Science is committed to mobilizing scientists, science advocates and concerned citizens to support evidence-based action on issues at the intersection of science and policy, including climate change. In the absence of leadership from the current Administration, we urge decision-makers in towns, counties, cities and states across the United States to join with the nearly 200 countries around the globe to heed the science on climate change and continue to take action to address this global threat to public health, global economies, and national security.

Smith, Charles
7-27-17

From: Charles R. Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Bambi Avery
[REDACTED]

Bambi:

Please forward this message and its attachment to the Ag Committee, Conservation Board, Planning Board, and Town Board. I've also copied it to Bharath Srinivisan at SUN8.
Thank you.

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the past few months, I've spent a number of hours reviewing materials related to the proposals for construction of solar arrays submitted by SUN8 for one site on Dryden Road and two sites in the Ellis Hollow Community in the Town of Dryden. I have concentrated on the draft SEQR reports and primarily upon the biological and ecological information on pages 12 and 13 of the SEQR reports. I have more than 50 years of experience as a field biologist, with special expertise in survey methods for birds, using visual and sound cues. When I go into the field in Upstate NY, I have a working knowledge of more than 1000 different kinds of plants and animals at the

genus and species level. My knowledge of geology and soils, however, is limited, and I have not commented on those components of the SEQR reports. Most recently, I reviewed online addenda to the environmental assessments for both sites, submitted by Tetra Tech and dated 16 June 2017.

I commend the Dryden Town Board for moving slowly and deliberately and for retaining the services of T.G. Miller P.C as consultants to review aspects of the proposed solar projects. It is important to note, however, that among its 14 professional staff profiled on their web site (<http://www.tgmillerpc.com/team.htm> , accessed 27 July 2017), none are identified as having field biology expertise. I also am pleased that SUN8 has worked with Tetra Tech to secure additional field data for the sites. Those data, however, remain largely superficial and lacking in detail. In particular, the plants reported appear to focus on just a few wetland species and do not identify upland species of herbaceous plants. The surveys perhaps were done by wetland ecologists not familiar with other species of herbaceous plants. As a volunteer, I've surveyed a nearby land trust property with a size and mix of habitats comparable to the Dryden Road and Ellis Hollow sites, and now have a list of at least 150 species of plants, 46 species of birds, 8 species of odonates (damselflies and dragonflies), and 12 species of butterflies.

As an example of how I report field work, I'm attaching 2 pages of my field notes from a visit to the Dodge Road site on 2 July 2017, a bit late in the season and late in the morning for adequate surveys of breeding birds. I noted only those species of birds, odonates , and butterflies I could detect from Dodge Road, because I did not have permission to enter the site. In

particular, I detected 18 species of birds on the Dodge Road site, 9 of which might actually be using the site for breeding activities (Alder Flycatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, and American Goldfinch).

Curiously, five of those species were not detected by Tetra Tech personnel, suggesting that they either were overlooked or not known to Tetra Tech Staff, including Song Sparrow, one of the most frequently detected birds, along with Red-winged Blackbird, on the Dodge Road site. I did not detect seven of the eleven bird species reported by Tetra Tech, at least six of which are forest species not to be expected on the Dodge Road site, which is primarily an oldfield habitat. Construction activities during Spring and Summer will disturb breeding birds and destroy their nests, eggs, and nestlings, in violation of protections provided by Federal Law (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Wildlife and Fisheries, as amended and revised), under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Information provided by Tetra Tech about their supplemental surveys on 13 June 2017, is not sufficient to assess either the accuracy or veracity of their work. No statement of the amount of time spent on the sites nor the time of day sampled or distance walked is provided, all of which are useful measures used to assess effort. The two proposed sites in Ellis Hollow are very different in their habitats, and the list of bird species provided by Tetra Tech suggests that the Dodge Road site might have been overlooked and not surveyed by Tetra Tech Staff.

The plants and animals on the two Ellis Hollow sites should have been reported separately for each site.

It is especially peculiar that no surveys of amphibians were done, especially for the Dryden Road site. The ponds and wetlands on the Dryden Road site provide breeding habitat in Spring for many amphibians, which will travel overland to the ponds and wetlands to breed. Construction on the site in Spring likely will lead to many amphibians being killed by construction equipment.

Regarding the potential presence of Northern Long-eared Bat on the Dryden Road site, the conclusion of unlikely occurrence is based upon inferences from habitat characteristics, not upon actual efforts to detect the species. Consultants with whom I've worked customarily use "bat detectors" (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bat_detector , accessed 27 July 2017) at night during Summer to assess presence of bats on a site. Because the Northern Long-eared Bat is listed as both a state and federally protected species, greater effort to assess its presence on the site, using bat detectors, is warranted.

I hasten to point out that I neither favor nor oppose construction of commercial solar arrays in the Town of Dryden. I am not trying to be an obstructionist or subvert solar power development, as some folks have asserted. I do, however, insist that laws governing reporting expectations related to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) be followed. I do not believe that has been the case with SEQRA reports from SUN8 regarding the proposed construction of solar arrays in the Town of Dryden. It does not appear than anyone with field biology expertise, besides myself, has reviewed the SEQRA documents provided by SUN8. There also has not been any individual or group of individuals, as unbiased, independent

arbiters, asked to assist in the review of these controversial projects. The Town Board appears predisposed to approving commercial solar projects in the Town; and SUN8 has presented information that reflects the most positive aspects of their projects, as can be expected from any corporation. It is to the advantage of corporations not to have detailed ecological assessments completed for their proposed projects. With more detailed assessments, species of plants or animals might be found that require further study or mitigation, at additional expense to the corporation.

The Dryden Town Board, motivated largely by economic considerations and the pretense of being more environmentally conscientious, has manipulated local zoning laws and made unprecedented concessions to SUN8. I've lived in the Town of Dryden for more than 40 years. As a naturalist and an ecologist (NOT an environmentalist), I already have seen plants and animals that I knew in the 1970s disappear from the Town.

Others have become reduced in number in the wake of commercial and residential development and environmentally insensitive farming practices. The policy of reviewing proposed developments in isolation from all those that have gone before is not likely to achieve conservation of plants, animals, and water quality. The cumulative effects of incremental development are not being considered, but can be considered under provisions of SEQRA, if municipalities are sufficiently environmentally conscientious to do so. While current policies and concessions may enrich the Town economically, they likely will impoverish the Town ecologically over the long term. Bird watchers, nature photographers, and other naturalists travel to Dryden to appreciate and document the ecological variety within the town,

and possibly even spend some money at local businesses. The continued loss of species richness likely will make Dryden less of a naturalist's destination as time goes by, as well as diminish the pleasure some folks have in living here.

At this time, I find Mark Twain's admonition useful: "There's no value to wrestling a pig. You only get dirty and the pig enjoys it." I have other things to do that are far more satisfying and more likely to be appreciated than wrestling this particular pig.

Charles R. Smith, Ph.D., Naturalist and Professional Skeptic
Senior Research Associate, Retired
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001

"The greatest impediment to progress is not ignorance, but the illusion of knowledge."
from *The Discoverers*, by Daniel Boorstin

"In times of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." -- George Orwell

"The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog." -- Mark Twain

Sunday, 2 July 2017

0830-0915 EDT

New York, Tompkins County,
Town of Dryden. Walked South
on Dodge Road, from
easternmost of 2, right-
angle curves, paralleling
area of proposed solar
array development. Stopped
at gas line ROW and
returned along same route,
for total distance of 1
mile, measured by GPS.

T_A: 74°F Wind: calm

Sky: ≤ 5% overcast

Odonates:

Widow Skimmer

Butterflies:

Cabbage White

Great Spangled Fritillary

Least Skipper

Birds (heard and/or seen):

Downy Woodpecker (spruces)

Pileated Woodpecker (flying over)

Alder Flycatcher

American Crow (spruces)

Tree Swallow (flying over)

Barn Swallow (flying over)

Black-capped Chickadee (spruces)

Red-breasted Nuthatch (spruces)

American Robin

Gray Catbird

Cedar Waxwing

Common Yellowthroat

Yellow Warbler

Song Sparrow

Northern Cardinal (forest edge)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (forest edge)

Red-winged Blackbird

American Goldfinch

18 species

Song Sparrow and Red-winged
Blackbird were most frequently
detected species

Time stopped to listen = 17 min (GPS)

West, Beverly
8-2-17

From: Beverly Henderson West [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Bambi Avery
Subject: 2nd draft solar farm views

Hello Bambi,

I am laid up and unable to attend Wednesday's meeting of the Planning Board, so I need to ask that you forward this question to them, as well as to Bharath Srinivasan and the Town Board.

Thank you again for all the work you are doing trying to keep up with our questions and comments. Everyone has a stake in bringing solar to Dryden in a way that protects our environment, in many different senses. It is so not true that those of us asking for concerns to be resolved are against solar. I said this on the record in my letter of May 11, delivered directly to you when it turned out the meeting that night did not include the solar projects, and presented orally at the next meeting that did. We just feel it is important to do it in a way that minimizes costs to the environment that we are trying to save (with solar).

Sincerely,

Beverly West
1214 Ellis Hollow Rd, Ithaca

Questions for Bharath Srinivasan:

1. We have not understood why spruces on the opposite side of Dodge Rd would need to be removed — we see minimal shadow effects, only in the late afternoon.

It would help us to understand if you could provide your shadow calculations for these areas.

I had also asked at the May 3 meeting about the possibility of preserving the sparse hedgerows. My observation this summer is that the sun is so high they provide *no* shadow, and in the winter those trees would be just skeletons.

2. It was good to hear on May 3 that you had already responded to Bruno Schickel's experiment with the tall pole at the cemetery site, and we appreciated your working around the shagbark hickories that we heard about on April 26. I asked on May 11 (in a letter submitted to the Town Boards) that you also respond to those of us who are asking for preservation of the natural barriers that exist on the roadside of Dodge Rd. and with the row of willows along Turkey Hill Rd., but I have not received an answer. Where these natural vegetative screens already exist, saving them should save you expense of removal *and* of planting screening that may or may not achieve the desired results.

My experience of driving (unexpectedly) past the community solar at 7107 Jacksonville Rd. proved to *me* that the typical roadside brush, so similar to Dodge Rd, works very well.

Obviously that site avoids plants that deer will devour; we also need to avoid wetland invaders.

Can you tell us the current status of the plans in regard to these comments made in May? In particular we seek the *answer* as to whether the natural roadside barriers can be preserved.

Thank you for all your efforts to soften the impact of the Dodge Road project, which is simply too big. Responses from Cornell re other seemingly open sites (including some very nearby) have been entirely too vague and inadequate.

If the above concerns are addressed, it would definitely make for a friendlier community.

Wilson, Joe
7-27-17

From: Joseph Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 4:39 PM
To: Daniel Lamb; Deborah Cipolla-Dennis; Bambi Avery; Kathy Servoss; Linda Lavine; Supervisor
Subject: Comment on whether Solar 8 Project needs further study under SEQR

To Members of the Dryden Town Board,

In my opinion, the Town's environmental consultant, TG Miller, has provided two reports--one for the 2150 Dryden Road (Cemetery) site and the other for the Ellis sites--which lay the foundation for the Board to make a "Negative Declaration" meaning no additional study of potentially adverse environmental impacts is needed.

My reasons are:

- Public Input has resulted in a process of environmental impact study which has taken 8 months and generated about 1400 pages of documentation
- Public Participation has included several public hearings and citizen-sponsored public meeting; 100's of public comments; and several petitions.
- The sponsor of the Project, Solar 8, has made multiple modifications to the project in response to Public Input
- Regarding the 2150 Dryden Road site (near Cemetery):
 - Of the 18 Environmental Resources required to be reviewed under SEQR, the Town Board required further evaluation of 10.
 - Consistent with best practice for a unique and complex development proposal, the Board has consulted with an experienced environmental firm, County Planning, several State and Federal agencies.
 - The results from the further evaluation of the 10 Environmental Resources at 2150 Dryden Road were that "no or small" impacts were identified for 7.
 - For the other 3, Aesthetic, Community Plan & Community Character consistency, TG Miller concluded that the changes and modifications which have been made in the proposal will ultimately result in there being "no significant adverse environmental impacts."
- Regarding the Ellis Tract sites:
 - Of the 18 Environmental Resources required to be reviewed under SEQR, the Town Board required further evaluation of 11.
 - Again, the Board consulted with an experienced environmental firm, County Planning, several State and Federal agencies.
 - The results for the further evaluation of the 11 Environmental Resources at 2150 Dryden Road were that "no or small" impacts were identified for 7.
 - For the other 4, Impact on Water, Aesthetic Resources, Community Plan & Community Character consistency, TG Miller concluded that the changes and modifications which have been made in the proposal will ultimately result in there being "no significant adverse environmental impacts."

Based on all the Public Input, the amount of study devoted to the environmental impacts at the two sites, and the conclusions drawn by County Planning, the various State and Federal agencies that have been consulted, and TG Miller, I request the Town Board end the environmental study of the projects and make a Negative Declaration regarding Solar 8's solar proposal.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Wilson
75 Hunt Hill Road
Ithaca NY 14850 (in the Town of Dryden)

