

Ashdown 5-27-17

Subject: Solar Development

Dear Ms Avery,

Could you please forward this to the Dryden Planning Board members, and also to the Town Board members? I understand this may also be posted on the town website.

Thank you!

Susan A.

To the Dryden Planning Board members and Town Board members,

In considering the Dryden solar projects, I do recognize and sympathize with residents who are mourning the potential loss of favorite views and walks. Indeed, I am one of them; I live near the proposed Ellis Hollow site. I consider some of the views in this neighborhood the most beautiful in the county. The combinations of rural agricultural landscapes with distant hillsides are truly spectacular. But I recognize that we did not buy a view when we bought our house. Although I love seeing the sunset through my neighbor's trees, I recognize that he may cut them down eventually, to realize the value of the wood. Of course I do not begrudge his right to do this. Similarly, I recognize the right of my neighbors, collectively, to receive tax benefits and lower electric costs from this project, over my access to the views that I treasure, particularly as this use results in little or no degradation to the environment. In fact, there is a net environmental benefit to the use, a rare situation with any kind of development.

Advice to my neighbors: when you view these silvery panels absorbing sunshine, think of the reduced carbon load. Think of the world for your children and grandchildren, with fewer floods and droughts, with intact beaches and mountaintops, with local electricity; not dependent on distant and polluting power plants but making clean electricity right in our own township. Nature will move aside, we will enjoy a different choice from the plentiful walks available to us, and the use of the land for solar panels will preserve it from other more intrusive development.

In Dryden we said "no" to fracking; to water and air degradation; to development that would benefit few, with the potential to harm many.

Let's say "yes" to solar; to net gains and only small challenges to the wildlife and environment; to development that will benefit us all, and bring no real harm to the few of us who will be directly impacted.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Ashdown

12 Forest Lane

Town of Dryden, NY

Habecker 5-22-17

Dryden Town Board:

It shouldn't be necessary to blatantly deface the environment in order to save it. The **huge** footprints of the proposed Sun 8 solar projects would be much more than a blemish on the countryside; they would dominate it.

Those who support the Sun 8 projects have cited the need to preserve the environment for their posterity. I, too, have grandkids and I'm not worried that delaying or modifying these projects will endanger their futures. **Feeling good** about Dryden's contributions to the green energy revolution seems to have obscured the **real work** that needs to be done.

Cornell University, which is leasing much of the land for the solar arrays recently rejected a proposal to divest the university's endowment from the largest, top 100 oil companies. The Board of Trustees stated that only when a company's actions are, "**morally reprehensible**", will the board consider divestment. That's the extent of Cornell's commitment to a green energy future.

In the 2016 election the Green Party ran on what they called the **Green New Deal**, which was a four part program for moving America quickly out of crisis into a secure, sustainable future. The second part of the **Green New Deal** was a **Green Transition Program** that would have converted the old, gray economy into a new, sustainable economy that would have been environmentally sound, economically viable and socially responsible. The Greens wanted to invest in green business by providing grants and low interest loans to grow green businesses and cooperatives **with an emphasis on small, locally based companies that keep the wealth created by local labor circulating in the community rather than being drained off to enrich absentee investors.**

I don't believe the Green Party received even 2% of the votes nationally.

A green revolution would require significant changes to the American lifestyle. No candidate from any political party would win an election running on a platform that would mitigate climate change. Such a platform would have to include a severe contraction of the economy, a

curtailment of citizen travel, a major downsizing of our military, (which happens to be have the largest carbon footprint of any organization in the world), and on and on.

Essentially, we're cooked if the American public and politicians don't wake up fast, and a few solar arrays in Dryden aren't going to make any difference. **At least the Town should take the time to insure that green energy is provided in a way that maximizes the benefits to its constituents and minimizes environmental impacts.** I support the moratorium.

Respectfully

Submitted,

Terry Habecker
15 Dodge Road

Midura 6-4-17

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.

Skaley 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.