

Henry S. Kramer

1524 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850



February 17, 2021

**Town of Dryden Supervisor, Town Board, and Planning
Department (via e-mail to Town Clerk):**

Signed by 54 Dryden residents who have authorized including their names as signatories, this letter is our comment on revisions to the Comprehensive Plan.¹ The signatories are all part of the Dryden community. No one outside the community is a signatory. The full list of signatories to date appears at the end of this letter. We reserve the right to submit additional signatures.

Ultimate Issue: This comment addresses the ultimate comprehensive plan issue, not its details. *This issue is freedom for each resident v. compulsory government mandates restricting residents' lifestyle and environmental home and land choices.*

More stringent home and land restrictions could result in exclusionary zoning. It may drive the cost of residing in Dryden out of reach for lower income people. Please do not enact into law harsh and expensive zoning restrictions pushed by an activist environmental lobby that seeks to use governmental power to force their extreme agenda on those who do not fully share their social and economic priorities.

The Environmental Agenda: Environmentalists seek to add new and extensive zoning and construction mandates. The aim is to force residents to adhere to the far out environmentalist plans set out in Agenda 21 and the Cleaner Greener NY Plans. These mandates will be a body blow to individual rights and to

¹ We do not wish to burden Town officials with more than fifty separate letters saying essentially the same thing.

freedom of choice. In their wake will come expensive drags on our economy, mandated, expensive, home improvements, and exclusionary zoning hurting those on fixed incomes and lower income people. Housing costs in Dryden may soar out of reach. New housing will cost more than in neighboring towns.

Freedom v. Protection: Freedom matters more than “protection”. Those who would “protect” us may protect us out of all we own. Legally, most homeowners buy property in “fee simple absolute” and can do as they wish with that property, subject only to health and safety zoning and the duty not to do direct and malicious harm to the public. “Protection” would make owners mere tenants of the Town, transforming Town government into an authoritarian, mandated, “home owner association”, to which we never agreed.

Lifestyle Choices: People often choose Dryden as a place to live and build their own private homes, large or small, to get away from urban living in apartments or communal “little boxes”. Many want privacy, large lots, and separation from neighbors. Dryden must respect a choice of values. Personal lifestyle choices should never be mandates requiring (by force of law) certain specific government imposed lifestyles or adherence to any one interest group’s political and social agendas.

The Survey: The “survey” of residents was not scientifically designed. It lacks statistical validity. Survey questions that seek accurate data are designed to be neutral, not to solicit the answers the survey’s creators want to hear. A survey should use valid representative techniques so no one area, age group, or political persuasion group’s responses are disproportionately surveyed or overrepresented. The current survey is badly flawed. It should be discarded.

Costs and Local Best in World Illusions: The values espoused herein are not anti-environment. All of us drink the water and we breathe the same air. The environment should be a consideration, important, but one factor among many. The

“low hanging fruits” of environmental clean up are gone. Obtaining the last ounce of environmental purity comes only at a disproportionate cost. Our planet’s environmental issues cannot be solved by local overreaction. While Dryden may strive for environmental purity other countries pollute to gain economic advantage over us.

Cult Mantras and Tax Bases: For some, environmentalism has morphed into a cult with mantras of “save the planet”. We need new tax base in Dryden to make it an affordable place to live, new commercial activity to produce goods and services, and a plentiful and fully reliable energy supply, independent of other nations, to reliably maintain a sustainable fuel supply for our economy and to power our lives.

Policies Matter: *You cannot have a mass of electric cars, heat pumps, and technology without building many more power plants. That much power demand inherently means using fossil fuels or enduring inevitable blackouts. The same environmentalists who demand millions of electric cars often oppose new power plants. With power out, electric cars will sit uselessly.*

Waste Disposal: Environmentalists avoid discussion of how to dispose of masses of solar panels when they wear out (they contain rare earth metals, U.S. landfills reject them) and they ignore the use of child labor in solar panel production overseas. This means the Town should reject any Comprehensive Plan that does not identify fully and solve long term concerns.

Open Questions Needing Consideration: Where is this headed? Will the Town be mandating thermostat limits and enforce them with either unilateral power to shut off power in our homes or will the town impose an environmental police force? Since we produce no energy will other places be willing to sell energy to us once their own supply is short?

Conclusions and Proposed Action: This letter is about our fundamental freedom. Please trust the people to inform themselves, set their own priorities, and make their own lifestyle decisions. Get the government out of our lives and out of excessive overregulation of life styles. Home rule must mean rule from *each home*. Home rule must not mean “town government rule”, limiting individual choice. The plan you have under consideration moves in the wrong direction. It is wrong for Dryden and wrong for America. The Town Board should scrap the revisions and halt the growth of bureaucratic zoning regulation in Dryden. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of all the undersigned.

**Henry S. Kramer
1524 Ellis Hollow Rd., Ithaca NY 14850**



List of Signatories (in alphabetic order by last name, then by first name):

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|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Carol Beck | Freeville |
| 2. Ronald Beck | Freeville |
| 3. Russ Beck | Freeville |
| 4. Tyler Beck | Freeville |
| 5. Art Berkey | Dryden |
| 6. Ross Boyer | Dryden |

7. David Bravo-Cullen	Dryden
8. Doug Brown	Dryden
9. Jack Bush	Freeville
10. Donna Carpenter	Dryden
11. Steve Carpenter	Dryden
12. Joanne Cooper	Dryden
13. John Cooper	Dryden
14. Kelly A. Daley	Dryden
15. Debbie Foote	Dryden
16. Michael Foote	Dryden
17. Alice Goldfarb	Dryden
18. Mark Goldfarb	Dryden
19. Bill Hughes	Freeville
20. Henry Kramer	Dryden
21. Judy Kramer	Dryden

22. Joel Lafian	Freeville
23. John Lafian	Dryden
24. Marcia Lafian	Dryden
25. Marieke Lafian-Ravenek	Freeville
26. Wendy B. Lyon	Dryden
27. Barbara Miller	Dryden
28. Deborah Miller	Freeville
29. Jay Miller	Freeville
30. Kenneth W Miller	Dryden
31. Christine Nash	Dryden
32. Cheryl Nelson	Freeville
33. Anthony Palumbo	Dryden
34. Marc Palumbo	Dryden
35. Cindy Pataki	Freeville
36. Larry Patten	Dryden

37. Valerie Patten	Dryden
38. Alex Perkins	Dryden
39. Anne Perkins	Dryden
40. Brad Perkins	Dryden
41. Danielle Perkins	Dryden
42. Mahlon Perkins	Dryden
43. David Pirko	Dryden
44. Kim Schenck	Dryden
45. Steve Scott	Dryden
46. Bonnie Scutt	Freeville
47. Douglas Stairs	Dryden
48. Virginia Stairs	Dryden
49. Fred Stock	Dryden
50. Erica Stupke	Dryden
51. Mark Stupke	Dryden

52. Stephen Stupke

Dryden

53. Ed Wilson

Dryden

54. Nancy Wilson

Dryden