

June 27, 2022

Draft Scoping Plan Comments
17 Columbia Circle
Albany NY 12203

I am sending this letter to strongly agree with Madison County Becker and our board supervisors that Madison County should remain agricultural rather than using good farmland for large solar projects. A project using 1200 acres will devastate an entire town and benefit only six larger landowners. Land to grow food and raise cattle may become our best natural resource in the months and years ahead.

New York has gained a reputation for dairy, wine, craft beer and Farm to Table tourism. Why would you want to spoil the views we enjoy, the wildlife habitation and the tax base/businesses that will disappear when half of a township will be populated by solar panels. I live on a three-acre parcel zoned residential yet according to maps I am to be surrounded by these panels that are not environmentally friendly. The area of panels will then be enclosed by tall electric fences. I wonder if anyone on this Council would like this project in their backyard. I would suggest we start with the 1200 acres surrounding your property and see if you enjoy the view and whatever other future issues may result.

These environmental companies get funding from the government, get six landowners to rent their land, put up the project and then sell their business leaving the taxpayer/town holding the bag. We have had experience with a windmill company that did not live up to its contractual agreement. Our town had to sue and ended up with less than promised.

Who will clean up when the panels breakdown or become useless? How do you keep the weeds and grapevines from taking over? by pouring chemicals on the land? Why are we being asked to fill out a survey about our wells? In my area our well is only 30 feet? If these cause well issues who pays to fix it? Who is going to pay me for the devaluation of my property? Who is going to pay for my higher school taxes when over 1200 acres come off the tax rolls? What are the health risk factors when surrounded with large numbers of solar panels?

This is a project that needs more investigation, more local public information; this is not a 1 or 2 solar panel project. New York does not need another Love Canal.

Mr. Becker is correct that people and businesses will move if these massive projects are implemented.

New York is currently experiencing a mass exodus, now may not be the time to proceed in such major land grabs.

I wish this project were about the environment but nothing about these panels screams environmentally safe or enhances the beauty of New York State. This is about votes, an election and money.

Please consider another area to place a solar farm- not Madison County. We have done our bit for the environment with several windmill farms and great recycling projects. Why not look at large urban malls standing vacant. Demolish the stores and parking lot and install solar panels.

Save the land in Madison County from large solar projects!

Carol Mitchell
Town of Fenner
Cazenovia, N.Y.