



June 30, 2022

Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

I am writing for the Conservation Board of Pound Ridge, New York in support of a provision in the Draft Scoping Plan which calls for State funding for Conservation Advisory Councils and Conservation Boards (collectively, CACs).

CACs were established by New York State more than 50 years ago to provide advice and guidance to a town's municipal leaders and residents about the importance of preserving open space and protecting natural resources. As such, the State charges CACs with producing natural resources inventories, habitat maps, open space indexes and ongoing and up-to-date educational material about matters that affect the health and condition of a town's water, woods, wildlife and habitat.

CACs could use funds for:

- Grant preparation
- GIS, iTree, or other software
- Membership in professional associations
- Continuing education (which could be required)
- Printing and marketing supplies for educational outreach
- Expert speakers on topical environmental issues
- Staff stipends

Members of CACs are strong local advocates for good environmental planning. They connect State policies to local communities. As we face the tremendous challenges of climate change, I urge you to fully support these groups, grass roots leaders in their communities, who are your partners in the aggressive and necessary environmental goals of New York State.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen Grogan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellen Grogan
Chair, Pound Ridge Conservation Board