

TOWN OF MEREDITH - PLANNING BOARD
4247 Turnpike Road – PO Box 116 Meridale, NY 13806

July 13, 2022

Doreen M. Harris, President/CEO
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Dear Ms. Harris:

Enclosed please find a resolution passed by the Town of Meredith Planning Board in response to the Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan. We recognize that this resolution was not submitted before the July 1st deadline. Due to our regular June meeting's cancellation, we were unable to approve the resolution before the deadline.

We hope that you will assist us in bringing these comments to the attention of the Climate Action Council as they develop the Scoping Plan for the implementation of the Climate Act. As a small rural community faced with large scale solar development on our agricultural and forested lands, we need support to plan for the development of renewable energy projects.

Sincerely


Susan Dapkins, Chair
Town of Meredith Planning Board

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Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan Resolution

Whereas, in 2019, the New York State Legislature enacted New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (the Climate Act) setting some of the nation’s most aggressive targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating renewable energy generation; and

Whereas, the Climate Act called for the creation of a Climate Action Council that is charged with developing a Scoping Plan of recommendations to meet these targets; and

Whereas, as the Council developed its draft Scoping Plan, it consulted with several Advisory panels that held sector-specific discussions and provided recommendations for their subject areas, and

Whereas the Land Use and Local Government Advisory Group which advised on two key sections of the report that will directly impact counties and municipalities and require their partnership, did not include any members who currently work in local government; and

Whereas, county and municipal leaders are best positioned to understand local needs and anticipate how meeting the Climate Act’s goals could disproportionately impact their communities and economies; and

Whereas the Agriculture and Forestry Panel calls for the protection of the State’s agricultural and forested lands and provides a long list of recommendations to support that goal; and

Whereas the Town of Meredith has a long and storied history of agricultural production; and

Whereas the Town of Meredith’s Comprehensive Plan includes a Farmland Protection Plan designed to preserve farmland; and

Whereas, according to the Town’s Farmland Protection Plan, 60% of the land in the Town of Meredith includes soils of statewide importance; and

Whereas the Town of Meredith lacks the resources to revise its Comprehensive Plan to include planning for proper renewable energy project siting to protect valuable soils and forests; and

Whereas the Town of Meredith’s topography includes many steep slopes and small streams that feed both the Delaware and Susquehanna watersheds; and

The Meredith Town Planning Board meets every 1st Monday of each Month at 7:00 PM.
Phone: (607)746-2431 Fax: (607)746-8544 Email: manifestsunshine@hotmail.com
Opening hours Town Hall / clerk: Tue: 10 am - 4 pm / Wed: 10 am - 2 pm / Thu: 10 am - 2 pm

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Whereas severe storms and heavy rainfall threaten erosion of valuable soils and sedimentation in the Town's streams, especially on disturbed soils with poorly established vegetation; and

Whereas the rush to build green energy projects in rural areas like Meredith has arrived full force without the supports described in the Scoping document as referenced above; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Meredith Planning Board objects to the lack of local government representation on the Climate Action Council and its Advisory Panels during the development of the draft Scoping Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED local governments should be provided with funding for technical and planning assistance in all areas where they are relied upon to implement the recommendations of the Scoping Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the State should support and empower town planners in protecting forests and productive farmland, which naturally captures carbon dioxide and should be conserved wherever possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the State should extend the public comment period to December 31, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Meredith shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the President/CEO of the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, and all others deemed necessary and proper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

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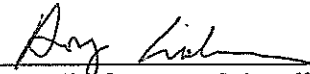
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CERTIFICATION

I, Amy Lieberman, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Town of Meredith Planning Board, and that the foregoing constitutes a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Planning Board at a meeting thereof held at the Town Hall, 4247 Turnpike Road, Meredith, NY on the 11th day of July, 2022. Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Brook Denison: Aye
Don Moody: Aye
Melissa Wakin-Mostert: Aye
James Tucker: Aye
Rachel Polens: Aye
Ted Martin: Aye
Susan Dapkins: Aye

Dated: July 11, 2022



Amy Lieberman, Meredith Planning Board Secretary

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