

Dear New York State Legislature,

Please accept my comments for the Local Government portion of the New York State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing.

I am concerned about many of the new laws and processes that have been enacted over the past few years pertaining to the streamlining of the siting process of large-scale renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind energy, and the **detrimental** effect that these laws have had and will continue to have on towns across the state, eroding local home rule authority and undermining SEQRA to site industrial solar and wind projects.

I comment here on the Real Property Tax Law 487 and Section 575-b, which is **NOT** in the interest of local municipalities and their residents.

The solar and wind energy system appraisal model or models and discount rates that New York State is currently using greatly discounts the taxable value of the real property improvements that are made within towns when large-scale solar and wind projects are permitted, constructed, and put into operation. This discounted tax assessment model puts local municipalities at a disadvantage. The law would take tax revenues out of local budgets, and municipalities are unable to seek appropriate tax revenues in the event they come to fruition.

I would also like to remind State legislatures that New York State is a **HOME RULE** state and deviating from **Home Rule** leaves communities unable to decide what is acceptable and what is NOT acceptable in the community. Essentially, the proposed legislation will allow Albany to ram a project down the throats of unwilling communities **AND** allow Albany to determine compensation via assesment. This clearly would conflict with the premises set forth by the New York State Constitution.

For clarity, I believe you are familiar with the following quote from the New York State government website...

*“The constitutional and statutory foundation for local government in New York State provides that counties, cities, towns and villages are “general purpose” units of local government. They are granted broad home rule powers to regulate the quality of life in communities and to provide direct services to the people. In doing so, local governments must operate within powers accorded them by statute and the New York and United States Constitutions.*

*The home rule powers available to New York local governments are among the most far-reaching in the nation. The extent of these powers makes the local government a full partner with the state in the shared responsibility for providing services to the people.”*

Governor Hochul's budget proposal would give the Office of Real Property Tax Services' (ORPTS) the sole voice in determining how large-scale renewable energy projects will be assessed, as it takes away the ability for local authority to value real property, in such cases. Already, state

law undermines local authority through 94-c. This proposal appears to be an egregious attempt at further government overreach.

I ask that this revision in industrial solar and wind assessment is **rejected**.

All Good Medicine,

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