

Dear Legislators,

I am opposed to the addition of proposed amendment 1-a, to Section 575-b of the Real Property Tax Law 487, because it is not in the interest of local municipalities and their residents. Please accept my comments for inclusion in the Local Government portion of the New York State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing.

In the face of rising global temperatures, the impact of climate change and the need to meet the mandates of the CLCPA, many new laws and processes have been enacted over the past few years pertaining to the streamlining of the siting process of large-scale renewable energy projects. I am concerned that the streamlining of the siting process for these large-scale projects, such as solar and wind energy, have had and will continue to have a detrimental effect on municipalities throughout New York because they destroy local home rule authority and undermine SEQRA to site industrial solar and wind projects.

Currently, due to New York State's appraisal model(s) and discount rates applicable to solar and wind energy systems, there are deep discounts on the taxable value of the real property improvements that are made within municipalities where large-scale solar and wind energy projects are planned for and installed. The law would take tax revenues out of local budgets; municipalities would be unable to obtain tax revenues if the projects become a reality.

If Governor Hochul's budget proposal passes, the Office of Real Property Tax Services' (ORPTS) would have the sole voice in determining how large-scale renewable energy projects will be assessed, because it takes away the ability for local authority to value real property in these cases. State law already infringes upon local authority through 94-c. I view the Governor's proposal as additional government overreach.

I urge you to reject proposed amendment 1-a, to Section 575-b of the Real Property Tax Law 487 regarding industrial solar and wind assessment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
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