

Dear New York State Legislature,

I'm writing to submit testimony and comments for the Local Government portion of the New York State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing. I'm writing on behalf of my family.

Proposed changes to Real Property Tax Law 487 and Section 575-b may harm towns and taxpayers without providing any tangible benefits for the state.

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, have stripped towns of home rule.

The appraisal model for solar and wind energy system appraisal model that New York State is currently using and may expand will greatly discount the taxable value of large-scale solar and wind projects. This removes tax revenues out of rural town budgets.

The budget proposal would make the Office of Real Property Tax Services' (ORPTS) the only entity that will have a voice and say in how large-scale renewable energy projects will be assessed. It deprives local authorities the ability to value real property. There is no method of accountability or transparency.

This appears to be an egregious attempt at government overreach, and only furthers the point of view that the decks are stacked against towns across the state, when it comes to the large-scale renewable energy.

We request that you eliminate the budget revisions to the Real Property Tax Laws and its related appraisal models or discount rates that may bypass local government.

Home rule must be protected and respected.

Thank you for your consideration.

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