

MARCUS J. MOLINARO  
19TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3219

1207 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5441

HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON SMALL BUSINESS

November 7, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor  
State of New York  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am incredibly concerned with the Office of Renewable Energy Sitting's (ORES) decision to grant a draft permit to Hecate Energy to build a massive 255-acre solar farm in the middle of the Town of Copake in Columbia County.

While I support an all-of-the-above energy approach, including solar energy, everything about this proposed energy project is wrong. The project includes the deforestation of 40 acres, the elimination of over 200 acres of usable farmland, is located on a FEMA mapped 100-year flood plain without a mitigation plan, would affect the watershed for the city of Hudson, would completely alter the rural landscape of the Town of Copake, affect resident's home values, and would produce little direct benefits to the community it's built in.

As a former Mayor, State Assemblyman, and County Executive, I know firsthand the importance of home rule and coordinating any development with local communities. The fact that despite near unanimous opposition to this project from local residents and government officials, your administration continued to grant a draft permit suggests disregard for home rule and the clear prioritization of private interests over the public's concerns.

The next step of the ORES permit process is a 60-day public comment period. If your administration truly listens to the public's comments, then you will ensure ORES decides against granting approval of this project.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please send a response to my office by November 20, 2023.

Sincerely,



Marcus. J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress