
MICHAEL J. FOURNIER

Dec 22, 2017

Via Email

Hon. Kathleen H Burgess, Secretary to the NYS PSC Siting Board

Re. Case No. 17-F-0602: Application of Franklin Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article 10 of the Public Service Law for Construction of a Solar Electric Generating Facility Located in the Town of Malone, Franklin County.

Dear Hon. Burgess,

I would like to submit the attached statement, from the Franklin County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, as a filed document to the DMM, in response to the PIP filed by Franklin Solar (Geronimo Energy) regarding case no. 17-F-0602.

As I have mentioned in previous correspondence, I head Friends against Rural Mismanagement (FARM), being a group of individuals who live either within the boundaries of the project area or within 5 miles of the Town of Malone.

FARM believes the Ag & Farmland Protection Board makes a compelling case for rejecting the project. (Note that the board consists of local farmers representing all the farmers throughout the county.) I quote the pith of their statement:

We pride ourselves in the efforts we take to be conscious of our environment and our local economy. The northern region of Franklin County is primarily agricultural land that is flat and fertile. Protecting this land and the economy made from it is important and valuable. . . . Using prime farm land for renewable energy can have a major impact on the farming industry in this region. We . . . feel that prime agricultural land and land of state significance needs to be protected to continue to be used locally for the agricultural industry. Removing this land would increase the already growing cost it takes to feed animals and keep our local economy thriving. It is already a challenge to survive as a farmer, and taking viable fields out of production would make survival even more difficult.

I have tried to make the document searchable, but I'm not sure I was successful. In any event, it's a brief statement and "searching" it for specific content is not an issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Fournier". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael J. Fournier

Party to Case No. 17-F-0602



Franklin County Ag & Farmland Protection Board

355 West Main Street

Malone, NY 12953

Phone: 518-483-7403

Fax: 518-483-6214

November 22, 2017

Harry Fefee

Chairman
Ag & FPB
Farm Manager

Doug Malette

Vice Chairman
Ag & FPB
Farm Manager

Rick LeVitre

Director
Cornell Cooperative Ext.

Jeanette Tummons

Director
Real Property

Gloria Valone

Clerk
Board of Legislators

Gerry Oakes

Farm Manager

Bob Gleason

Farm Manager

Bill Wood

S&WCD
Board Chairman

Terry Moore

Agribusiness

Chastity Miller

District Manager
S&WCD

To whom it may Concern,

It has come to the attention of the Agricultural Land Protection Board in Franklin County that there has been a vast interest from Solar Companies to develop solar power in Franklin County. We pride ourselves in the efforts we take to be conscious of our environment and our local economy. The northern region of Franklin County is primarily agricultural land that is flat and fertile. Protecting this land and the economy made from it is important and valuable. While we know that renewable energy is a growing industry, it needs to be thought out and planned to benefit all. Using prime farm land for renewable energy can have a major impact on the farming industry in this region. We as, the Franklin County Ag Land Protection Board, feel that prime agricultural land and land of state significance needs to be protected to continue to be used locally for the agricultural industry. Removing this land would increase the already growing cost it takes to feed animals and keep our local economy thriving. It is already a challenge to survive as a farmer, and taking viable fields out of production would make survival even more difficult.

The Agricultural Land Protection Board would like to encourage that land that isn't being used for production be looked at. While this land may need to be developed, it would help immensely with lessening the impact on local agriculture in Franklin County. The Agricultural Land Protection Board is willing to assist you in finding land that would be more suitable for solar companies.

Sincerely,

Franklin County Ag. Land Protection Board

Doug Malette

Harry Fefee

Robert R. Gleason

Terry A. Moore

Gerry Oakes