

ONTARIO COUNTY  
Agricultural Enhancement Board  
*Fredrick Lightfoote, Acting Chairman*

October 5, 2018

Mr. Ronald Brand, Director  
Farmington Department of Planning & Development  
1000 CR 8  
Farmington, NY 14425

Re: Comments on the Proposed DRS 7MW AC Community Solar Facility at 466 Yellow Mills Rd., Town of Farmington

Dear Mr. Brand,

The Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Board has reviewed the proposed project at its October 2, 2018 meeting and offers the following comments for the Town's consideration:

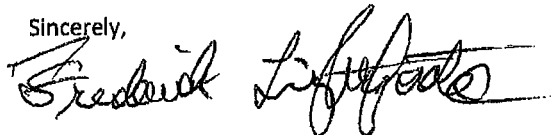
- The proposed project will result in the loss of approximately 30 acres of prime farmland on a parcel that is identified in the Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Plan – 2018 as a Priority Land for Protection. It is included in the county plan because it was also identified in the Town of Farmington's Farmland Protection Plan.

The Board recognizes the landowner's right to pursue development of uses allowed in the zoning district. However, it is concerned about the potential for the cumulative significant loss of prime agricultural land where commercial solar PV systems are allowed uses in zoning districts (such as A-80) where agriculture is the predominant land use and is a priority for protection.

- The applicant should be required to determine if there are any surface or subsurface agricultural drainage systems that will be impacted by the proposed project. Damage or removal of such infrastructure can adversely impact the viability of the farmland remaining on the parcel and adjoining farmland which may be connected to the sites system.
- *§165-65.3 H. (5) [4] Decommissioning* states, "Stabilization and revegetation of the site with native seed mixes and/or plant species (excluding invasive species) to minimize erosion." The Board recommends that conditions be placed on any approval that requires restoration of the site to productive farmland (including surface and subsurface drainage infrastructure) in a manner that is specified by the OC Soil and Water Conservation District or any successor agency.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the Town of Farmington for this opportunity to comment on the project.

Sincerely,



Frederick Lightfoote,  
Acting Chairman

Cc Supervisor Peter Ingalsbe, Town of Farmington