

Planning Board

Farmington Town Clerk

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Please distribute a copy of the attached article to the Town Board Members, the Planning Board Members and the Zoning Board Members.

AND MR. BRAND
" MR. MORSE

Thank-you, From the Concerned Citizens of Farmington

one for each Board Member and one
for John Roboretella

To: The Town of Farmington Town Board, Town of Farmington Zoning Board and the Town of Farmington Planning Board

From: Concerned Citizens opposing Large Scale Commercial Solar Power Plant on Fox and Yellow Mills road.

Date: January 7, 2019

Board Members

Attached are two recent articles: "THE MONSTERS ON THE RIDGE" by Bob Lonsberry and "Protect Spotsylvania from Mega Solar Industrial Complex" by Kevin McCarthy. We join the growing local and national widespread objection to Large Scale Commercial/Industrial Solar located in Non-Industrial /Non-Commercial areas. Our group feels these articles echo our concerns and objections to this proposed Large-Scale Commercial/Industrial Solar Power Plant.

Thank You

Your Neighbors;

Jim Foley

Ann Foley

Jim Falanga

Nancy Falanga

Al Baxter

Jennifer Baxter

Jim Redmond

Lisa Reed

Caroline Heberle

Linda Heberle

Edith Chapman

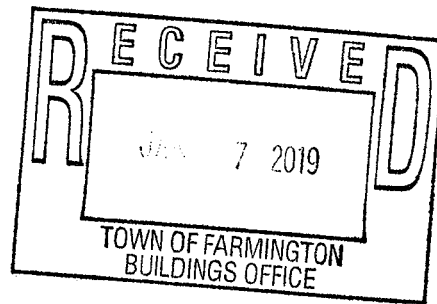
Eric Chapman

Gordon Wilson

Stacy Vandenburg

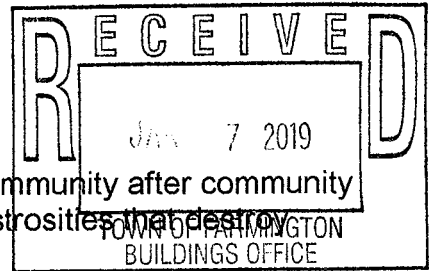
Arnold Vandenburg

Jim Dennie



THE MONSTERS ON THE RIDGE

In this day and age, are we going to look the other way as community after community across upstate New York is stuck with alternate-energy monstrosities that destroy ancient vistas and oppress local interests?



Do we not see the injustice of far-away companies using government subsidies to force whole communities into the shadow of desecrations that salve the conscience of big-city progressives and enrich distant corporations but scar the birthright and psyche of rural New York?

One generation of elites forced open-pit mining onto southern Appalachia, and another is forcing grotesque wind turbines onto northern Appalachia. The connection is powerlessness, and the belief of one group of people that they have the right to destroy the homeland of another group of people.

We are a dumping ground, and no one will hear our voice.

We are upstate New York, and the city sends us its trash and its convicts.

Its prisons dot our countryside, and its garbage dumps befoul our highways, air and water.

And now its windmills stand watch on our ridges, like alien invaders, colonizers sent upstate by politicians, activists and profiteers to keep us in line.

To forever scar the wooded horizons which have been our home for two centuries, and home to our Iroquois predecessors for millennia untold before that. The way it has always been is no longer to be. The landscape carved by God and glaciers is scarred now by motionless turbine towers, slapped across our home like the mark of a dog that has pissed against a tree.

The Big Dipper and Orion, each in their season, have climbed above the hills of dozens of home valleys, to be seen by thousands of years of humankind, but no more. Not without the obscuring hulk of steel and the reminder that new gods reign.

The gods of profit and politics, lording it over a people in poverty.

Monuments of subjugation.

Yes, making payments to the occasional landowner, and buying off the quislings in town government too lazy or stupid to balance a budget otherwise. It is a mess of pottage given to few to despoil and destroy the birthright of many. It is the vagary of greed and political opportunism set afire in the lives and homes of people whose homelands will never look or truly be the same.

We love these forested hills and the skies above them.

They are sacred to us.

We see God in them, we feel our ancestors in them, our children will grow beneath them.

And they are taken from us so a politician gets a campaign boast and a profiteer gets a government subsidy.

For scarcely any good.

The turbines seldom turn, and the winter skies are the second-cloudiest in the country. And if everything worked all the time the area electrified would be smaller than the area despoiled.

But because the government subsidizes these projects, and because the governor wants to look green, and because the state has so ravaged our economy, and because we have no true voice whatsoever in state government, the towers go up, and the fields are papered over with solar arrays.

And the state legislators, counting campaign contributions from corporations far away, tout our despoiling as a profitable exchange, and a great boon, and proclaim themselves our benefactors.

They are right. Money is exchanged. Just as there is money exchanged in prostitution. But the recipient of that money is not truly benefited, and neither are we.

We are conquered. We are disrespected.

We lose the one thing we thought was ours forever – the sight of the far hills, the soil and the trees and the sacred line between forest and sky. Fields where rain falls and sun shines and where, if the farmer leaves it fallow, the meadow and then the scrub and the wood follow. Fields where now the soil will be darkened, deprived of sun, so that con men scamming a government program can buy themselves luxury far away.

They are the mark of the beast upon our land.

The tokens of subjugation.

We hate them, we don't want them, they wound us to the core and disrespect our land and our history, and the land and the history of the people who went before us.

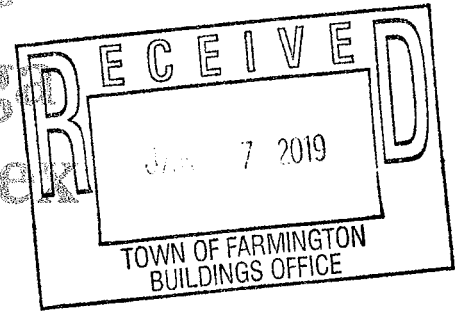
And yet they will come.

Because we are powerless.

Or so the people in the city and the Capitol think.

- by Bob Lonsberry © 2018

COMMENTARY: Protect Spotsylvania from megawatt solar industrial complex



• By Kevin McCarthy

• Dec 8, 2018

THE application for a 500- megawatt solar industrial complex by an out-of-state solar company, sPower of Utah, is now in the hands of the Spotsylvania County Planning Commission, and after that, it will be before the Board of Supervisors.

As proposed, it would be the fifth-largest such power plant in the United States, right in the middle of rural and historic Spotsylvania County.

The sPower plant would consume 10 square miles of designated forest lands. That is half the size of Manhattan, and larger than the entire city of Fredericksburg. The four larger solar power plants are located in the desert of the U.S. Southwest, far from any residential areas.

The project is just plain wrong for Spotsylvania on several levels.

First, there is the intermittent unreliability of solar power around the country and the world. The solar industry is a subsidized scheme between government and corporate titans that has little impact on the grid or energy supply for the communities where these monstrosities reside. And now this industry wants to inflict its latest mega-experiment and boondoggle on Spotsylvania. That's right: we are to be the East Coast guinea pigs for a massive government/corporate "feel-good" project that will harm our community—for virtually nothing in return.

Wherever solar goes, trouble follows: higher electricity prices, instability in the power grid, rolling brownouts and blackouts, higher taxes.

Entire countries—such as Germany, Australia, Denmark, Spain, Canada, China, and Japan—are experiencing the severely negative impacts of intermittent, unreliable solar and wind power. States such as New York and California continue down the path of ever-higher “renewable targets,” and their citizens now pay the highest electricity prices in the country.

Next, there is the potential for serious, irreparable harm to our environment, to Spotsylvania’s historic landscapes and vistas, and our county infrastructure.

Here’s an outline of the potential issues that were carefully researched by Concerned Citizens of Spotsylvania County:

Severe damage to the aquifer supplying water to thousands of homes;

Toxic cadmium contained in 1.8 million solar panels leaching into our water supply;

Erosion and runoff caused by the clearing of more than 3,500 acres of trees; The staggering cost of the future decommissioning of the site;

Loss forever of prime “agricultural/forestall” land that will never be restored;

Likely increase in taxes on Spotsylvania residents to support this project;

Likely decrease in property values of thousands of homes that would now border a massive power plant.

Finally, there is the inevitable politics of this project. SPower will try to bribe its way into our county by providing funds for a few projects here and there to make our supervisors think they’re getting a great deal.

Here's the plain truth: Any supervisor who votes to approve this monstrosity is casting a vote against the interests of taxpayers, constituents and our community, and in favor of out-of-state corporations – and their investors—who have no interests in our community.

Let's learn from the mistakes made elsewhere.

Radio host Bob Lonsberry, of WHAM Radio in Rochester, New York, recently wrote about this. With his permission, I quote him, though I've substituted "Virginia" for "New York":

"Are we going to look the other way as community after community across rural Virginia is stuck with alternate-energy monstrosities that destroy ancient vistas and oppress local interests?"

"Do we not see the injustice of far-away companies using government subsidies to force whole communities to salve the conscience of big-city progressives and enrich distant corporations but scar the birthright and psyche of rural Virginia?"

"To forever scar the wooded horizons which have been our home. The way it has always been is no longer to be. The landscape carved by God and glaciers is scarred now, like the mark of a dog that has pissed against a tree.

"We love these forested hills and the skies above them. They are sacred to us. We see God in them, we feel our ancestors in them, our children will grow beneath them. And they are taken from us so a politician gets a campaign boast and a profiteer gets a government subsidy. For scarcely any good."

Protect Spotsylvania. Deny sPower's application.

Kevin McCarthy, a former producer of the USO Shows and television productions worldwide, is now a retired church music director living in Spotsylvania.