

Southern Hills Wind Watch

In 2024, a diverse, bipartisan group of concerned citizens came together to form Southern Hills Wind Watch in response to the growing concern over the Palmer Maple Harvest Wind Turbine Project, a massive wind turbine project planned for our region. We are united in our belief that this project will be detrimental to our communities and that it is not appropriate given our unique geologic history of landslides, fragility of the environment, and damage to our Tully Valley from the historic salt brine industry.



Since our inception, we have rapidly grown in numbers and strength, driven by our collective passion for preserving our land, protecting wildlife, and ensuring the well-being of local residents. Through community meetings, educational campaigns, and active engagement with policymakers, we strive to raise awareness and influence decisions that affect our cherished environment and quality of life.

Get Involved -Contact Us



Our Website <https://southernhillswindwatch.com/>

Problems with the Maple Harvest Industrial Wind Turbine Project



Palmer Capital's Maple Harvest Wind Turbine Project is being planned for our home.

This Massachusetts based company plans to install more than twenty-four 600-680 foot industrial wind turbines, among the largest in New York State. With their 1.5-acre concrete base weighing more than 2000+ tons, and the accompanying transmission facilities and towers, they will threaten our neighborhoods and ecosystems. Palmer has never installed a project of this size.

This action has the potential for being dangerous to people and property and will impact all in the area. There are approximately 245 homes within one mile of the planned turbines, and a total of more than 1,000 homes within 2 miles. Throughout New York State, these types of project installations have disregarded the safety and well-being of communities and the environment.

**Palmer Capital's Maple Harvest Wind Turbine Project
will be detrimental to Tully, Lafayette, and Otisco**

Our pristine ecosystems will be threatened, given the proximity of turbines and transmission facilities; removing forests, compacting soil, destabilizing land and disrupting life for people and animals.

Our People, Land, and Water Are Threatened



Tully Landslide, Tully Farms Road-1993

Landslides are active and ongoing in Tully Valley. Recent landslides due to high intensity storm events have occurred along Hollenbeck Rd, Otisco Rd., Tully Farms Road, and Route 11A

The placement of turbines and transmission facilities on our hills and valleys increases the risks of landslides and damage to our streams and lakes. Clearing for turbines increases the harmful impacts of high intensity storms which have resulted in landslides. Already there are landslides ongoing in Rattlesnake Gulf and within the Tully Valley. In just the last eight years, our area has been overwhelmed by three 100+ year storm events which are increasing in frequency and severity. Hollenbeck Road, which is directly downhill from seven planned turbines, experienced a landslide (debris flow) which resulted in a significant cost, time and effort for Tully to rebuild. Also of concern, is that the headwaters of Onondaga Creek and many of the tributaries and streams in this area, are part of the Onondaga Lake Watershed.

Our Wildlife Will Be At Risk

Turbine blades kill endangered bats, eagles, other raptors, waterfowl and other kinds of birds. Based on bat fatality studies in New York State, a project this size has the potential to kill 1,000 bats per year. Installing roadways, transmission lines and 2,000-ton wind turbines, fragments the forest, increases sediment entering creeks, and will impact cold water trout fisheries in what's left of the clear streams of upper Onondaga Creek.



Our Communities Have Lost Autonomy

Towns and villages in New York State have lost home rule and the ability to halt projects that could pose a threat or negative impact to their communities. In 2022, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) was established to oversee permitting of large renewable energy facilities, overriding Towns' role. In 2024, ORES was given the right to oversee transmission lines and the use of eminent domain to acquire private property needed to install transmission facilities. This was done as part of the RAPID Act. This Act also accelerates the permitting process-potentially allowing unvetted projects to be built.