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Executive Director Zeryai Hagos
Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission
New York State Department of Public Service
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Director Hagos,

I write to raise concerns regarding the proposed Maple Harvest wind project in southern Onondaga County. The more I learn about this proposal, the more concerned I become about the process and potential consequences for our community.

As proposed, an out-of-state company seeks to place two dozen turbines – each taller than the Washington Monument – across the hills of Tully, LaFayette, and Otisco. And as you know, under recently adopted New York State law, projects like this bypass county and town review entirely, moving instead through a rapid state-run approval process. That approach is at odds with PlanOn, a comprehensive plan developed by the county and its towns to grow intentionally, preserve farmland, and protect green spaces and waterways.

Beyond the process, the siting of these turbines raises serious environmental and public safety issues:

- **Landslide risk:** The developer proposes turbines on the very hillsides that experienced New York's largest mudslide in 75 years, which destroyed three homes and buried 1,500 feet of roadway in Tully Valley in 1993. Residents and geologists warn that the combination of snowpack, rain, and turbine vibration could increase the likelihood of another disaster.
- **Water quality and wildlife:** The hillsides feed into local streams and aquifers. Disturbance could threaten drinking water and habitats.
- **Community impact:** Residents worry about noise, property values, and the disruption of rural character.

- **Longevity:** Just across the county line in Madison County, an earlier wind farm is already being dismantled after roughly 25 years – raising questions about whether these projects will leave behind costly scars.

Importantly, the towns directly affected—Tully, LaFayette, and Otisco—have each passed resolutions formally opposing the project. That unified local opposition underscores how far out of step this proposal is with community priorities and the comprehensive planning work embodied in PlanOn.

Onondaga County has consistently supported renewable energy projects that are responsibly sited and aligned with local plans. But this project, as currently envisioned, risks undermining public safety and environmental integrity while cutting residents and local governments out of the decision-making process.

I respectfully urge ORES to pause consideration of this project until the developer can demonstrate that it aligns with PlanOn and fully addresses the environmental and community concerns outlined above.

I would welcome the opportunity to brief you further or connect your team with our planning and environmental staff.

Sincerely,



J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive