

To the Planning Board

Ancram has long prided itself as being sensitive to environmental concerns, and in fact we have been told by an outside consultant the town frequently uses that we have among the most stringent and thorough Zoning Laws she has seen. Part of our attention to these concerns is supporting the use of alternative energy sources like solar. In fact, in the Zoning Law under "Solar Systems Use and Intent" we close with the statement "...and encourages property owners to install and sensibly site solar energy systems".

It further states in referring to the Comprehensive Plan, the set of guiding principles for Ancram, that the section on Solar is to: "Promote the effective and efficient use of solar energy systems". The full text is available in the Zoning Law which is on the town website and includes a stringent set of standards under which solar panels can be installed, whether on rooftops or ground mounted.

The proposed site near Millerhurst Farm meets and exceeds those standards, for example, the total acreage including the access road is below the 10 acre limit of Ancram's solar law, it meets and exceeds all setback requirements and the maximum height of the proposed sites panels are a full 3 feet or 20% lower than the 15' limit set forth in the law. The site is set over 1000 feet from RT 82 and will be well screened and visible to only a few residences, hardly "forever changing the character of the town" as was stated in a previous letter. This project requires no variances and fully complies with Ancram's well thought out standards for a "community scale" solar array.

We realize and are sensitive to those few households that may have visibility to the site and understand their POV. We're sure RIC Energy together with the Planning Board will put forth an effort to mitigate those concerns as much as is reasonably possible. We believe we have exceeded the intent of the Zoning Law to sensibly site the location and screening it.

James and Janice Miller