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From: Matthew Tuck [REDACTED].com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 12:17 PM
To: planningboard@ancramny.org
Subject: Ancram Planning Board Meeting, Thursday, November 6th, 2025: public comments made by Matthew Tuck

Dear Members of the Ancram Planning Board-

As you are aware, the following comments were read aloud to those present during the Planning Board Meeting on November 6th, 2025.

I am now submitting this public comment as a formal letter and ask that you post it, at your earliest convenience, with other correspondence related to this matter.

With respect and earnest thanks,

Matthew Tuck
Ancram resident

***** Letter Submitted by Matthew Tuck

Save Scenic Ancram from Industrial Solar

Thank you for your time and right off I will tell you that I am not against solar development.

Today I drove roads within Ancram that are unquestionably anchored in the very center of our town's revered landscape. I have been doing this since my father introduced us to the area in the 1980's and especially after we found a home in Ancram over a decade ago. Many of these country roads bear witness to the historic Millerhurst Farm, a recognized National Bicentennial Farm. But, we all know this fact. We also know it unquestionably helps define Ancram.

This prized viewshed is now the subject of a proposed industrial solar array by RIC Energy. Thankfully, this Planning Board has seen fit to have a third party assess the merits of the visual analysis submitted by RIC Energy and another submitted by professionals hired by Ancram residents.

What I can tell you is that illustrations provided by RIC Energy - where fields of green adjacent to Millerhurst - are paired with solar array installations that are also green do not do justice to RIC's transparency or our collective intelligence. What I cannot tell you is why RIC's approach to this entire project has been one where they offer little but promise so much.

These industrial solar arrays won't be green in color and neither will the long, snaking industrial road permanently installed to service this complex. And yes, solar panel glare is real, too. None of this will be hidden from the naked eye when the leaves are off entirely, as they are for over 6 months a year. And, yes, any number of residents will see the solar array with leaves full on, too. We call that summer time.

The drive I took today reflected this in a manner that is more stark than I can describe. Pat's Road and Route 82 are ground zero for this visual impairment fall out. Skyline and Poole Hill suffer collateral damage, too.

So, I ask you: Why wouldn't RIC Energy be more forthright about this visual fallout? Significantly, why wouldn't RIC be forthcoming about their entire application? RIC's website claims they have completed hundreds of projects. Alarming, in our Ancram, inconclusive or inaccurate statements have been made by them in a business they know cold.

LET'S BE HONEST:

- Our utility bills will not change materially at all.

- There are other existing solar subscription options for Ancram residents to choose from today.
- Ancram will not benefit financially from the project in any manner: in fact, lower real estate taxes by those affected by the project will be a drag on town coffers. Our coffers.
- This lost revenue certainly won't be made up by RIC Energy.
- And let's not forget Millerhurst Farm, how will their business be impacted?

At the center of this visual analysis is how our historic farming community can move forward. While RIC is shilling their product for a foreign corporation, Ancram will be left holding and looking at RIC's industrial solar array baggage for the next 30 years.

Respectfully, this is not the right move forward.