

August 1, 2025

Ancram Town Planning Board
Town Hall
1416 County Route 7
Ancram, NY 12502

Dear Members of the Ancram Town Planning Board,

My wife and I are writing as residents and homeowners on Pat's Road Extension to express serious concerns regarding the proposed solar panel installation off of Rt. 82 that would cover approximately 10 acres of open farmland in our community.

The proposed site, located atop a hill in a wide-open field, not only would be fully visible from our home across the valley, but the visual impact of such a project, given its currently planned siting, would be significant not only to our family but to many other homeowners and passersby who value Ancram for the very qualities this project would compromise.

One of the principal reasons we chose to settle in Ancram was because of the town's well-earned reputation as an historical agricultural community—defined by its expansive farmland, deep environmental stewardship, and unspoiled natural vistas. We came here with the hope of raising our now 7-month-old daughter in a place rooted in tradition and natural beauty. To see this threatened by an industrial development in such a prominent and exposed location is deeply troubling on several fronts.

While we recognize the importance of sustainable energy sources, projects of this nature should be weighed thoughtfully against the character and integrity of the communities in which they are sited. Unfortunately, the current proposal—in location and design—does not strike the right balance. It risks setting a precedent that could gradually erode the very qualities that make this town so special.

Even more concerning is the manner in which the public has been informed. We only learned of the project 2 weeks ago on Friday, July 18th—through word of mouth from neighbors on Poole Hill Road, who, like several others, have voiced serious reservations. The fact that a project of this scale could quietly proceed as far as it has, without communication to those who would be directly affected, raises questions about the transparency and scope of the public notice and review process. Moreover, there appear to be significant omissions in the environmental, acoustic, and visual impact assessments conducted thus far—failing to account for the array's effect on several accessible vantage points.

If this project is to move forward, we respectfully request a serious reconsideration of its current placement at the absolute minimum. It appears that if the array of panels were to be moved toward the southern portion of the 94-acre parcel in question, the natural topography along with

existing and augmented vegetation could provide meaningful visual screening from all angles. By contrast, the current site, due to its high elevation and open exposure, makes any effective screening virtually impossible—thereby degrading property values and altering the visual and acoustic character of a large portion of the surrounding area.

During a recent community meeting organized at Hillrock Distillery on July 23rd, Rob Queirolo, Ancram Project Director at RIC Energy, clearly stated that he—and by proxy, RIC Energy— is amenable to editing the existing plan to ameliorate its visual impact, potentially by re-siting the array, redistributing its dual monolithic layout, and/or undertaking similarly effective tactics. Mr. Queirolo's comments demonstrate that there are solutions to be had that address our concerns and those raised by other Ancram residents. We feel strongly that, at a minimum, the Planning Board should pursue this offer to the fullest extent possible before voting on the project.

We submit these comments not in opposition to renewable energy, but in strong support of responsible planning—planning that upholds the standards and vision that make Ancram the community it is. We thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of these concerns and respectfully urge the Board to ensure that this decision is made with the full input of the community and with a long-term vision for Ancram's future in mind.

Sincerely,
Josh Rosen & Erin Morgan

jrosen_junior@yahoo.com