

1 8/6/2025 - Agricola Wind, L.L.C. - 23-03002

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

4 OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING

5 AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

6 CASE 23-03002 - Proceeding on the Application of
7 AGRICOLA WIND, LLC for a Major Renewable Energy
8 Facility Siting Permit Pursuant to Article VIII of
9 the New York State Public Service Law to Develop,
10 Design, Construct, Operate, Maintain, and
11 Decommission an up to 99-Megawatt (MW) Wind Energy
12 Facility Located in the Towns of Scipio and
13 Venice, Cayuga County.

14 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

15 DATE: August 6, 2025 at 6:01 p.m.

16 LOCATION: Hilton Garden Inn

17 74 State Street

18 Auburn, New York

19 BEFORE: A.L.J. HENRY JAMES JOSEPH

20 A.L.J. JOHN FAVREAU

21
22 Reported by Annette Lainson
23
24
25

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2 (The hearing commenced at 6:01 p.m.)

3 COURT REPORTER: On the record.

4 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you. Today is

5 August 6th, 2025, the time is now six 0 one p.m.

6 This is D.M.M. matter number twenty-three dash zero

7 three zero zero two. In the matter of the

8 application of Agricola Wind L.L.C. for a major

9 renewable energy facility site and permit.

10 Pursuant to Article 8 of the New York

11 State Public Service Law to develop, design,

12 construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a

13 ninety-nine-megawatt wind energy facility located in

14 the towns of Scipio and Venice, Cayuga County.

15 Good evening, everyone, and welcome.

16 My name is Henry James Joseph, I am an Administrative

17 Law Judge for the Department of Public Service Office

18 of Hearings assigned to this ORES matter, and on my

19 left is Judge John Favreau, also of the Office of

20 Hearings.

21 I'm -- we are responsible for

22 presiding over this public comment hearing, the draft

23 permit and its conditions were issued by ORES staff

24 on June 2nd, 2025. Included in the draft permit are

25 standards and conditions for the site design,

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2 construction, and operation of the proposed facility.

3 This hearing was scheduled in a public
4 notice issued on June 2nd, 2025, advising all
5 affected by the facility of the opportunity to voice
6 concerns, opinions, and suggestions, on the
7 application and draft permit conditions as part of
8 the ORES process.

9 The notice was posted on the project
10 website served on the party list of all persons
11 required to receive copies and was published in The
12 Citizen in the city of Auburn on June 7th, 2025 and
13 on fingerlakes1.com, in the town of Seneca Falls on
14 June 10th, 2025.

15 As part of the application process,
16 the permit applicant is required to provide extensive
17 information about the proposed facility, which the
18 Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric
19 Transmission reviews thoroughly, including the
20 project's location, size, and design, and
21 importantly, its potential environmental, economic,
22 and social impacts on the community, including its
23 agricultural and wetlands and water resources,
24 geology and wildlife.

25 Impacts to public health and safety,

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2 land use, transportation, and security issues are
3 also examined, along with visual and noise impacts.
4 Equally important is review of the project's
5 compliance with the town of Scipio and Venice's local
6 laws and regulations and any related waiver
7 applications.

8 This hearing provides a platform for
9 you to offer your views on these issues; your
10 feedback helps shape ORES' final decision on the
11 application. At the registration table is a fact
12 sheet, it looks like this.

13 This fact sheet contains the website
14 information you need to review copies of the
15 application and draft permit conditions, and the
16 email address for the Hearing's office. The case
17 name and number are found on the fact sheet and are
18 important if you want additional information about
19 the project.

20 On that fact sheet you will also find
21 the web address where posting comments and a regular
22 mailing address for mailing them. Always refer to
23 the project name and case number when submitting
24 comments. Comments must be submitted electronically
25 or postmarked by five p.m. on Friday, August 8th,

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2 2025.

3 This hearing is not a question-and-
4 answer session. If you have questions, please see
5 ORES staff when the hearing ends. This is your
6 opportunity to make comments, which will be reviewed
7 by ORES in considering this project's application and
8 the draft condition and which will become part of the
9 official record of this matter.

10 Please note your comments should be
11 about the proposed project and should not be about a
12 different project, or other topic. If you wish to
13 make an oral statement this evening and have not
14 already filled out a registration card at the
15 registration table, do that now, please, that's these
16 little cards, okay?

17 We have about fifty registered
18 speakers already. I will be calling on any elected
19 officials first and then speakers in the order in
20 which you register. We have many speakers tonight,
21 and each will have a three-minute time limit.

22 Your written comments can be as long
23 as you like. Please be aware of your time limit
24 tonight. We are using this clock, so you will know.
25 Again, you may submit as long of a comment as you

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2 like in writing. Written comments and oral comments
3 are given equal weight.

4 If you are submitting any studies
5 today, scientific studies, or academic papers, or
6 anything of the sort that you have printed, please
7 make sure that you have a copy of your own. There is
8 a process for getting materials back, but that will
9 not happen until after the permit application review
10 is complete.

11 When I call your name, approach that
12 microphone, get close to it, clearly state your name,
13 spell your last name. If you rep -- represent an
14 organization, identify it, speak slowly, speak
15 clearly. We need a good clean recording so that the
16 court reporter sitting on my left can accurately
17 capture your statement.

18 As I mentioned, we have the seats
19 reserved down front in order to expedite the hearing
20 and minimize the amount of time that speakers are
21 waiting to give their statement. And I'm going to
22 ask that you hold off on any applause until the
23 conclusion of the hearing.

24 It does not inform the official
25 record, and it delays the people who are waiting to

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2 speak. Our first speaker is Gary Mutchler.

3 MR. MUTCHLER: Good evening, ladies
4 and gentlemen. I want to thank all of you, residents
5 of this beautiful Finger Lakes region for coming to
6 this hearing to share your insights regarding this
7 wind project.

8 I am Gary Mutchler, and I own a two-
9 hundred-and-thirty-acre farm in the Southeastern part
10 of the town of Scipio where the wind turbines are
11 cited. I, too, was approached by Liberty regarding
12 this project.

13 I'm thankful that my wife, daughter,
14 and son-in-law were much smarter than me and highly
15 discouraged me from signing a contract. Liberty made
16 it sound good to the farmers that this project would
17 bring lots of revenue to the town and the landowners.

18 They tried to accommodate the
19 landowners' wishes regarding the placement of the
20 towers and access roads. But once the landowner
21 signed the contracts, any place on your land is
22 available and your say does not count.

23 As I have studied the impacts of wind
24 towers being placed in our area over the last four
25 years, the problems far outweigh the positive

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2 impacts. They are far too numerous for me to comment
3 on this brief three-minute speech, so I will be
4 writing my remarks and sending them either by email
5 or the web page, and I encourage many of you to do
6 the same.

7 While this beautiful vista will be
8 negatively impacted, my primary concern is the
9 destruction of the wonderful soil base. According to
10 Liberty's research, bedrock was not found even at a
11 depth of thirty-eight-and-a-half feet for some of
12 these turbines.

13 The idea that building a base ten feet
14 deep by eighty feet in diameter will support these
15 monsters when we have dangerous winds without being
16 on bedrock is scary.

17 Also, if the project at completion,
18 the company wants to only remove the top four feet of
19 this man-made base. The damage to springs, wells,
20 and drainage tile can be an extensive and these
21 issues need to be addressed before permitting can be
22 -- can continue.

23 This area has primary recall for land
24 and is zoned to have residential. It should remain
25 the same and not become industrial. This area is

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2 easy picking for the wind company. Flat terrain,
3 close to a transmission line, plenty of wind.

4 They say it's great for the
5 environment as we are creating green energy. Far
6 more fascia fill will be used in the manufacturing
7 and installation of these structures than green
8 energy will ever be generated.

9 As I walk around my home, I enjoy the
10 beautiful sunrises and sunsets, the fog lifting from
11 the Finger Lakes at different times of the year. The
12 trees, occasional flocks of Canadian geese, and their
13 beautiful V formation or just an occasional pair off
14 by themselves.

15 Let's save our soils, our beautiful
16 countryside, and the quiet environment we can enjoy
17 rather than being surrounded by up to twenty-four
18 inefficient wind turbines in this area. I ask and
19 plead with the leadership of ORES to deny this
20 project from proceeding.

21 I, along with many others, are also
22 praying that if it's God's will, this project will
23 not be further permitted, and we will be able to
24 enjoy this area as an Ag-residential town. Thank you
25 very much for your consideration.

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2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
3 comment -- thank you very much for your comments,
4 sir. Ann Ormsby.

5 MS. ORMSBY: Hi, my name is Ann
6 Ormsby. My husband and I have lived at West Lake
7 Road --

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Speak into the
9 microphone, Ms. Ormsby.

10 MS. ORMSBY: Sorry?

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: The microphone.

12 MS. ORMSBY: You can't hear it?

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: No.

14 MS. ORMSBY: This one or this one?

15 A.L.J. FAVREAU: The big one.

16 A.L.J. JOSEPH: The big one.

17 MS. ORMSBY: Start the clock again,
18 please.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes, ma'am.

20 A.L.J. FAVREAU: You'll have to get
21 close to it there.

22 MS. ORMSBY: Hi, my name is Ann
23 Ormsby, my husband and I --

24 A.L.J. JOSEPH: One second.

25 MS. ORMSBY: Sorry?

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2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I'm having some
3 trouble with the clock, I'm sorry.

4 MS. ORMSBY: The clock in this, we're
5 even.

6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: That's true.

7 MS. ORMSBY: It says twelve minutes to
8 me.

9 A.L.J. FAVREAU: There we go.

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Technology. Go ahead,
11 ma'am, I'm sorry.

12 MS. ORMSBY: My husband and I have
13 lived at West Lake Road in the town of Fleming since
14 1988, or thirty-seven years. I have personal
15 experience in this field as a graduate of Cornell
16 University, with a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

17 I have taught agriculture, was
18 employed as a director for New York Farm Bureau
19 working in public policy and spent thirty-five years
20 working in energy for New York State Electric and Gas
21 as a manager of key accounts working with NYSEG and
22 R.G. and E.'s largest and most politically active
23 businesses.

24 I have personally seen the evolution
25 of renewable energy over the past forty years. I am

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2 not in support of this wind farm. The location is
3 nonsensical, and the short-term benefits don't even
4 begin to make a dent on the long-term problems it
5 will cause.

6 We moved to our home as we were
7 attracted by the lake and natural resources
8 surrounded by us. Recently, we have seen a return of
9 native bird species such as eagles and ospreys. I
10 won't -- I'm not -- this is not a NIMBY situation; I
11 won't even see the wind turbines from -- from my
12 home.

13 My concern is the site selection is
14 damaging to the wildlife, and it's a short-term money
15 grab for foreign investors, which will cause --
16 create additional cost for local municipalities,
17 repairing roads, loss in property value, which will
18 translate to less tax dollars from municipalities,
19 negative impact to tourism, and overall change to the
20 landscape and classical Finger Lakes group.

21 I am not in favor of the wind farm for
22 the following reasons, negative impact to the
23 wildlife. It's going to be located in flyways,
24 including the nearby -- nearby Montezuma National
25 Wildlife Refuge, which is sixteen miles north of the

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2 wind farm.

3 It will be a mere four miles from
4 Owasco Flats, which was developed because of this
5 very region in Seneca Lake to create bald eagle
6 habitat because of a project there. There's an
7 extensive list of impacted species in New York State
8 D.E.C.'s impact study of the -- proposed wind farms.

9 ORES should not issue any approvals
10 until federal review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
11 Service. My understanding from discussions with the
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is that Agricola is
13 not required to receive a formal review by that
14 agency.

15 However, if an endangered species is
16 killed and is proven to be caused by the wind farms,
17 Agricola will be fined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service. It's too late when that happens, please
19 don't let this happen.

20 There are federal laws to be followed,
21 included but not limited to the Endangered Species
22 Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Acts, New York
23 State D.E.C. protection of the Northern Long-ear Bat
24 National Environmental Policy Act, an assurance that
25 no wetlands or stream crossings occur.

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2 Of note, the golden eagles do migrate
3 through New York State and are endangered species.
4 Two, this is an unsustainable project as stated by
5 the first speaker with the damage. Rights, taking
6 away the rights of local taxpayers by creating ORES.

7 I understand the spirit was to fast-
8 track renewable energy, but New York is finally
9 waking up, and now we have the beginning of the
10 building of a new nuclear project.

11 My request is to please not have this
12 wind farm developed. Thank you.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
14 comment. We're not going to go through this with
15 every speaker folks, please. At the end, I promise,
16 we will have a big round of applause for everyone.
17 It's hard enough to stand in front of a room full of
18 people, I understand that.

19 And everyone doing it deserves some
20 recognition for that, however, we have now about
21 sixty speakers at three minutes a piece. So I want
22 to hear everyone and give everyone their shot at
23 three minutes, and so we're going to keep things
24 moving. Wendy Mutchler. I apologize; I think I said
25 that wrong.

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2 MS. MUTCHLER: Okay. Thank you for
3 giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Wendy
4 Mutchler, and I've been a Scipio resident for
5 nineteen years. Three minutes is such a short time
6 to express my feelings about the effect of wind
7 towers on my world.

8 Where I live in Scipio, we are
9 currently surrounded by incredibly beautiful vistas.
10 Visitors to our home always comment on how beautiful
11 and peaceful the area is. I love sitting in the
12 morning on the - our eastern facing weatherize porch
13 admiring the lovely view.

14 Evenings, you will often find me
15 posting gorgeous sunsets from the west side of our
16 house. I mark the seasons by the multiple migrating
17 birds we have in our area. I love it when barn
18 swallows return yearly, and I'm always a bit sad to
19 see them go.

20 Before moving into the Finger Lakes
21 region, I had never observed migrating snow geese.
22 They make a field look snow covered even when there's
23 no snow -- snow is on the ground. The effect with
24 such large flocks with white bodies and black-tipped
25 wings taking flight is really breathtaking.

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2 I cannot imagine the impact so many
3 huge wind towers will have on these flocks and
4 others. When the wind towers were first pitched in
5 our area, I asked several times if they could give us
6 a rendering of how these would look in our area.

7 I was told they didn't have anything
8 like that to show. Later, my husband and I took a
9 drive to Deposit, specifically to get a visual on the
10 size, as they had wind towers that size in that area.
11 It was distressing and sobering to see these
12 industrial monsters up close. I could not fathom
13 being surrounded by them.

14 They do not belong in an area of
15 agriculture and tourism like ours. This past year,
16 we took a trip that took us to Canada. One stretch
17 of road was surrounded by wind towers. I found
18 myself feeling motion sickness and had a hard time
19 directing my vision, so I couldn't see the turning
20 blades. I don't want to feel that way just looking
21 out our windows.

22 I am so distressed that, despite
23 living a town with such beautiful soil and farmland,
24 that our state government can override the will of
25 the people who live here and force this project upon

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2 us.

3 I worry about the effect on our spring
4 that has given us unlimited good water when a wind
5 tower is put close to it.

6 As opposition to this project has
7 grown, Agricola has been upping its promises of more
8 and more money to the town. I would say to them,
9 please keep your money and leave our town wind tower
10 free. What we have now is priceless and
11 irreplaceable.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
13 for your comment. Mimi Champion. Mimi Champion.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. CHAMPION: Hi, I'm Mimi Champion,
16 I live in Owasco, New York. I don't have a prepared
17 statement because I really was moved when I got here.
18 I think it's important that we stress our concerns.
19 And my first concern is like everyone else, about the
20 mi -- migratory birds.

21 We're so close to Montezuma swamp, and
22 we're so concerned about the eagles, and all the
23 other varieties. But then there are other things to
24 consider, like the vibration of the windmill, and
25 sound that's going down at night.

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2 And also, we know that whales died off
3 the East Coast last year because of the vibrations
4 and the noise, so it is a concern. On top of that,
5 what do we do about each one of the turbines that --
6 that contains one thousand four hundred liters of oil
7 way up in the air. And in the heart of the winter,
8 who is going to go up there and make sure that
9 everything's running well?

10 And who's going to maintain it, and
11 what's going to happen when it starts to leak into
12 our valuable water, into the soil. So that's all I
13 have to say.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
15 for your time.

16 MS. CHAMPION: And do we have any
17 power, probably not.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Absolutely. Yes. Joe
19 Marshall. Joe Marshall. Mr. Marshall, one second.

20 MR. MARSHALL: Just one?

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Come down to the
22 front, please. Polly Lyn Davies, Randy Lawrence, Len
23 Luka, and Dennis R-O-R-I-B-R --

24 MR. ROSSBACH: Rossbach.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes, that -- yes, that

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2 name. Yes, thank you very much. Come down and have
3 a seat in front. Sir, please give us your comment.

4 MR. MARSHALL: I'm Joe Marshall from
5 Aurora, New York. Since 2010 NYSERDA programs have
6 been focused on creating public private partnerships
7 to "increase private investment in renewable energy,"
8 to which a 2013 report released by the New York State
9 Comptroller's Office reminds us in no way "alters the
10 fact that the entire cost of public infrastructure
11 will always be borne by the public."

12 And it costs far greater than just
13 money spent like compounding inflation, the loss of
14 property rights in our very own home. NYSERDA's New
15 York Green Bank, itself a public private partnership,
16 claims it's committed over two billion to green
17 objectives since 2013.

18 To avoid the same carbon dioxide,
19 plants need to create the oxygen we and every other
20 creature -- land creature on Earth need to breathe.
21 Additionally, a forester report regarding the expense
22 of what they termed seeding the green market
23 revolution has shown that between 2010 and 2023,
24 solar and wind received the most federal subsidies,
25 seventy-six billion and sixty-five billion.

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2 Since 2015, U.S. Federal investments
3 into countering captured social sciences of
4 anthropogenic climate change, via forced compliance
5 to the world's socialism of redistributive human
6 rights based D.E.I. E.S.G., United Nations'
7 sustainable development goals, and the global
8 governance they all codify, have increased some
9 twenty-one-fold, while studies continue showing
10 renewable goals unobtainable, be it by 2030 or by
11 2050.

12 The Inflation Reduction Act alone is
13 set to cost us yet another one point two trillion,
14 triple original projections within just the next few
15 years and that puts it at one point eight trillion.

16 Either way, it's become clear to even
17 the most indoctrinated as the institute for energy
18 research puts it "wind and solar only exist because
19 of government subsidies and mandates."

20 They are wholly dictated, they have no
21 free market value, you know, where peep -- free
22 people voting with their dollars get to determine the
23 need and value of things.

24 Translated into English, every single
25 one of these industrial wind and solar sites are

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2 being forced upon us, with or without our approval.
3 At the expense of not only us, but our children and
4 grandchildren for generations to come according to
5 the needs of central plains technocrats at the helm
6 of the state, federal, and, yes, global public
7 private partnerships that won. Mussolini himself
8 defined and operated as fascism.

9 And two, have here and been shown are
10 in no small part thanks to New York State, the Hochul
11 and Cuomo administrations in particular. From a
12 truth and liberty perspective, these windmills
13 represent nothing more or less than the colossal
14 revolutionary collectivist knives in the back of our
15 republic that they actually are. They should not be
16 allowed to go through. Thank you.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
18 time. Polly Davies.

19 MS. DAVIES: My name is Polly Lyn
20 Davies, D-A-V-I-E-S. We've heard numerous negative
21 impacts of the turbines; I want to speak to the
22 process.

23 In the United States of America,
24 governments derive their just power from the consent
25 of the governed. That's democracy. The people hold

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2 the power to govern themselves. Our system is also a
3 constitutional republic where our constitution limits
4 government powers and protects our individual rights.

5 These concepts are the foundation of
6 self-government and self-determination. Residents of
7 the Finger Lakes community share a common vision.
8 They know, we know, what is best for the future of
9 our hometowns.

10 We are being stripped of our rights to
11 self determination by ORES and the RAPID Act. I will
12 close with the three most powerful words in American
13 democracy. We, the people.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Folks, this is an
15 official hearing, and so I'm going to ask you again,
16 and I don't -- it's not an issue with disrespect for
17 the speakers, I respect all the speakers including
18 the ones that are waiting. Len Luka.

19 MS. LUKA: Hi, my name is L-E-N, my
20 last name is L-U-K-A. I understand that people have
21 questions about wind energy projects like this one,
22 and that people are deeply emotionally invested in
23 this topic.

24 Because it can be so emotional,
25 sometimes we get sidetracked either by strong beliefs

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2 that we have, or by information that we would prefer
3 to believe to be true. In such cases, the common
4 concerns might not be as fully addressed in the
5 hearing as they need to be.

6 If you go through the ORES documents
7 carefully, you see how much care has been invested in
8 protection of the animal species and protection of
9 habitats. There's also scientific studies that show
10 simply painting one of the turbine blades with a
11 stripe saves the majority of any bird life. Birds
12 can just suddenly see it in a void.

13 So some of the concerns for this
14 project that have been raised already have been
15 addressed. These turbines are cited away from homes.
16 They follow strict state setbacks, and they operate
17 within safe noise limits.

18 Some people have expressed concerns
19 about property values, but independent studies show
20 that slight dips in property values during
21 construction are fully recovered and level out once
22 the projects are complete.

23 In fact, many towns see the opposite
24 and find tax at revenue values, bring more people
25 into the community. There's also an increase in

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2 infrastructure investment. The land remains in
3 agricultural use and farmers gain stable income that
4 helps them keep their farms in the family and keep
5 their operations viable.

6 This project has been developed for
7 four years with ongoing community engagement. And
8 every aspect, visual, environmental, and safety has
9 been studied and openly shared. In a community that
10 values individual rights, we should value the choices
11 of the landowners to invest in the property as they
12 choose.

13 Landowner lease payments support farm
14 incomes while largely preserving agricultural use
15 with minimal disruption to operations. Properties
16 that have little taxable value are converted into
17 reliable tax revenue sources, reducing property tax
18 burdens and enabling investments in schools, roads,
19 and emergency services.

20 This project reflects the best of what
21 responsible renewal -- renewable energy development
22 should be community centered, economically
23 beneficial, and environmentally necessary. It
24 delivers local benefits while serving broader state
25 and global goals.

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2 I urge the relevant authorities to
3 approve this project and recognize it as a model of
4 responsible community based renewable energy
5 development, thank you.

6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
7 for your comment. Off the record.

8 (Off the record; 06:28 p.m.)

9 (On the record; 06:29 p.m.)

10 MR. LAWRENCE: Hi, my name is Randy
11 Lawrence, L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E. I live in the town of
12 Scipio on Hunter Road, been there for several years.
13 We've had zoning for several years, but ten or
14 fifteen years ago, we were told that we couldn't
15 really have or enforce our zoning laws because we
16 didn't have a comprehensive plan.

17 So we got to work and we rewrote a
18 comprehensive plan. We worked with Cayuga County
19 Planning; we got the plan in place and then we were
20 allowed to rewrite our zoning laws.

21 Having done this, the result of -- of
22 the comprehensive plan was that we basically wanted
23 little or no change in the town. We wanted to remain
24 Ag-residential.

25 Didn't say anything about wind power,

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2 industrial wind power. So the -- the other thing is
3 the comprehensive plan when we wrote it, specifically
4 said that just because the zoning doesn't specify
5 whether or not a use is permitted or not, it doesn't
6 automatically mean that it's approved.

7 Therefore, a project like this
8 shouldn't fall into that category. I -- I would say
9 it should be denied. The bottom line is the town is
10 not interested in a commercial wind energy product;
11 we want to remain Ag-residential.

12 A wind energy project of this size
13 just doesn't fit with what the town wants. Thank
14 you.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
16 comments, sir. Dennis R. Sir, just -- okay. That's
17 fine. Sorry. Sir, spell your last name please, I'm
18 sorry.

19 MR. ROSSBACH: Rossbach, R-O-S-S-B-A-
20 C-H.

21 A.L.J. FAVREAU: Okay. One second,
22 sir. All right.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Please give us your
24 comments, sir, thank you.

25 MR. ROSSBACH: All right. My name is

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2 Dennis Rossbach, I've lived in Scipio most of my
3 life. I've left a few times and come back. It's
4 hard because I'm not an expert, when I talked to the
5 labor guys, they told me I was wrong about everything
6 that I read that I was spitting out to them.

7 I know what I'm right about, I know
8 that this wouldn't happen without government
9 subsidies. I know that raises my taxes, I know that
10 my electric bill is going to go up so that people in
11 New York City can have more electric.

12 I know it hurts me personally. I also
13 know my mom's phobic, and she's terrified of them.
14 But I think what bothers me the most is this,
15 everybody in here is going to pour their heart out,
16 and we're going to give them facts, and we're going
17 to give them proof.

18 And I don't think anyone here thinks
19 it's going to change a damn thing. And to me, that's
20 government tyranny, and, sir, if you have the ability
21 to change, you know this town doesn't want it, you
22 know it's not for us.

23 If you have the chance to vote this
24 down, I beg that you do it. That's all I have.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your

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2 comment, sir. Joanne Nombris, come down, you're the
3 next speaker. Melissa Alford in the front row,
4 please. Larry Kabat, I think, sorry if I messed that
5 up. Robert Ciesielski, and Melissa Denman, have a
6 seats in the front -- oh, sorry, Joanne Nombris is
7 next. Did we lose Ms. Nombris, N-O-M-B-R-I-S,
8 Joanne. Okay. All right. Melissa Alford.

9 MS. ALFORD: Pause the time please.

10 A.L.J. FAVREAU: Yes.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, please
12 proceed.

13 MS. ALFORD: As planning board chair
14 with the town of Scipio, I must state strongly how
15 frustrating it is to consider an application that has
16 such major portions redacted.

17 The expectation to make reasonable,
18 well-informed comments and state concerns about the
19 project in its entirety is laughable and an absolute
20 disservice to our community and its leaders. Given
21 the bit that we can read, I offer these comments from
22 a study conducted by Cornell Professor of Soil and
23 Water Science.

24 Some specific concerns have been
25 identified that either need to be addressed in

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2 construction guidelines or legal protections for
3 landowners and other community members. Two of --
4 areas I will note here regarding parse (phonetically
5 spelled), and arsenic leaching from limestone.

6 The blasting operations need to be
7 adjusted if parse is present due to concerns about
8 hydrology. The geological examination from Exhibit
9 Ten did not identify parsed. The Onondaga limestone
10 formation is estimated to be between a two hundred to
11 three hundred feet depth.

12 Such local wells reach down -- excuse
13 me, some local wells reach down into that limestone
14 layer. Considering that the developer does not plan
15 to use blasting for foundation construction, and the
16 limestone is overlaying by at least one hundred feet
17 of shale deposits, it is not anticipated that the
18 deep parse will be impacted.

19 There cannot be a blasting within five
20 hundred feet of a water supply, so there is some
21 protection in place, but parse hydrology is tricky to
22 assess, and all deeper wells greater than a hundred
23 and fifty feet in the entire project area should be
24 included in the well monitoring efforts.

25 Regarding -- regarding water supply

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2 protection, a key concern is that proposed
3 remediation calls for construction of a new well only
4 if the existing well meets federal or state water
5 guidelines, pre-wind farm construction, and fails to
6 meet guidelines afterward.

7 Rural wells are not required to comply
8 with municipal drinking water regulations, meaning we
9 could easily have a scenario where water quality is
10 adversely impacted and a homeowner left with no
11 recourse. Moreover, the guidelines -- excuse me, do
12 not address the loss of water quantity.

13 It is therefore recommended that the
14 guidelines are written to include "or otherwise
15 significant water quality and quantity degradation
16 defined as a twenty percent increase in biological,
17 physical, and chemical contaminants, and/or a twenty
18 percent volume decrease in flow derived from the
19 water source."

20 It is also recommended that the
21 distance for water well testing is significantly
22 expanded from one thousand to three thousand feet.
23 All deeper wells in the project should be included
24 due to potential parse hydrology and arsenic.

25 It is noted that in addition to water

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2 wells of varying depths, some residents in the
3 project areas use springs for their water source. To
4 ensure they are included in the legal tax, all
5 references to "active water supply well" should be
6 restated as "active water supply well, or other water
7 supply intake."

8 Please do not permit this application
9 as it is currently written, there are too many
10 catastrophic possibilities for our community due to
11 our complete dependence on groundwater. Thank you.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
13 comment. Larry Kabat.

14 MR. KABAT: Close enough. Good
15 evening. My name is Larry Kabat, K-A-B-A-T. My wife
16 and I live on Firelane thirty-one on the east side of
17 Owasco Lake. We'd be looking directly across at
18 twelve windmills, when you're seeing them and more
19 likely hearing them. We're not interested in
20 listening to windmills.

21 We can hear a motorboat going down the
22 east side of the lake with two men in it. We can
23 hear a conversation. So if there's any noise at all
24 coming out of the windmill, we'll hear it, and we
25 don't want to hear it.

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2 We don't want to have flickering in
3 our windows, in our living room, in our homes, and
4 this is a -- a problem. The next thing I want to
5 state was that I want to show everybody a picture in
6 case somebody says, well, you're interested in
7 protecting the raptors and bald eagles and stuff and
8 say, well, I've never seen one.

9 Well, here's a picture of a bald eagle
10 off of our deck right in front of our house, and
11 they're there quite often. On -- on top of it, I've
12 seen golden eagles, great blue herons, other raptors,
13 and hundreds of flocks of geese and ducks.

14 And they fly over this ridge line
15 where these towers -- these, windmills are going to
16 be. They're going to be chopped up like Cuisinart.
17 They have not -- Liberty has not applied or gotten
18 some kind of exemption for not getting approval from
19 U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife.

20 And I just want to bring up a -- a
21 data sheet from U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife on
22 collisions with land-based wind turbines. On the low
23 side -- this is in the U.S. On the low side it's a
24 hundred and forty thousand four hundred and thirty-
25 eight.

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2 The high side three hundred and
3 twenty-seven thousand five hundred and eight-six.
4 The median is two hundred and thirty-four thousand
5 and twelve. These are collisions with animals, birds
6 that are going to hit these windmills.

7 And this place in particular is in the
8 flyway between the Great Lakes, Montezuma National
9 Wildlife Refuge, Owasco Flats, and on their way to
10 Chesapeake Bay where they migrate twice a year. So
11 this is going to happen. Don't say -- don't say it's
12 not going to happen because it is going to happen.

13 The second part of what I want to talk
14 about was property values. And property values are
15 going to go down. Everybody here that lives there,
16 their property is going to be worth less, and that's
17 not just a dream, it's going to happen.

18 Even Liberty admitted to this, and
19 they said at one of the meetings they said that your
20 value would come back eventually. Yeah, it may --
21 may come back a little bit, but not like people that
22 don't have to see these windmills.

23 So when that property value goes down,
24 their assessments will go down, they have a hard time
25 selling their house because of what they have to look

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2 at. The assessments go down, they go to grievance
3 court, individuals who go to grievance court and get
4 their taxes reduced, that's less money for each town.

5 So this is a negative economic impact
6 on top of the other thing I was talking about with
7 the migratory birds. I appreciate your time.

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
9 comment, sir. Mr. Robert Ciesielski or Ciesielski.

10 MR. CIESIELSKI: Good evening. I'm
11 Robert Ciesielski, I do support the Agricola Wind
12 Project. Wind projects are a remarkable way of
13 preserving the real character of those towns. If you
14 look at Lewis County, they have three turbine -- wind
15 turbine farms.

16 And there the turbines can be -- or
17 the farms can be plowed right up to the base of the
18 turbines, and grazing takes place throughout the
19 area, so agricultural output is not affected. The
20 additional lease payments to the farmers are an
21 important factor in keeping the land in our -- in
22 agriculture.

23 Post agreements, payments to towns and
24 counties and school districts are also important to
25 maintaining infrastructure and schools so that young

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2 people can remain in the area and have a reason to
3 stay. Payments in lieu of taxes are many more times
4 than that paid on recreational or agricultural lands.

5 All in all, wind generation keeps
6 money local. Otherwise we're looking at spending our
7 money on gas, oil, or coal from out of town and out
8 of state and that brings me to another point. I have
9 a number of friends whose children have been affected
10 by the oil wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

11 So this affects me, I -- I've seen the
12 suffering of the families that -- that have gone
13 through. Energy independence isn't just about
14 economics, it's personal. It's about honoring those
15 who have sacrificed everything in wars fought over
16 oil.

17 We have an abundance of sun and wind,
18 resources that belong to us, free and inexhaustible.
19 Why should we continue fighting over finite fuel --
20 fossil fuels when renewable energy offers a path to
21 lasting peace and self-sufficiency?

22 To me, wind turbines symbolize
23 stability. Their power is predictable and
24 untethered. They represent an opportunity to cure
25 our community's future on their own terms. We often

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2 joke about younger generations, but let's remember
3 that many of us have millennials or even younger in
4 our families. They deserve a voice here today.

5 Speaking for the graduating class of
6 this past spring, I urge you to listen to their
7 anxieties. It should be the glory days of their
8 youth, yet -- yet many are postponed careers,
9 homeownership, and parenthood through economic
10 uncertainty.

11 Wind energy offers more than just
12 environmental benefits. It provides economic
13 stability. By harnessing wind on our farmlands, we
14 can prefer -- we can preserve family legacies, keep
15 young people working in their communities, and
16 alleviate the financial stress that dims their
17 futures. Thank you.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
19 comments, sir. Melissa Denman is our next speaker.
20 Come down in the front. Please have a seat in the
21 five reserved seats in the front, Mary Tissot,
22 Bettina Arleo, I beg your pardon, folks. Lisa
23 Guerrette, the last name is Eldridge, I'm sorry.
24 Jonathan Ryan. There's only one person named
25 Eldridge, okay. Ms. Denman, your comments, please.

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2 MS. DENMAN: Okay. My name is Melissa
3 Denman, D-E-N-M-A-N. And I live in the town of
4 Venice where this project is proposed. My house is
5 near several of these turbines, within half a mile of
6 at least three.

7 I have many concerns with this project
8 and how it will affect my family and the neighbors.
9 And this project should not -- why I think this
10 project should not be approved. Some of the main
11 concerns are the setbacks from houses and wells,
12 wetland destruction, wildlife, and human health.

13 The pace of this project is just
14 reckless, and it needs to be reconsidered. First,
15 I'd like to talk about the setbacks that New York
16 State has in place for how far a turbine needs to be
17 from a well. The standards are unacceptable.
18 Thirteen hundred feet from a dwelling or well is just
19 not far enough.

20 Everyone that lives out in our area
21 either has a drilled well or a spring for their water
22 source, and it's very concerning that these turbines
23 might make our wells unusable, and that is our way of
24 having water. These regulations do not protect the
25 residents' health and well-being.

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2 Next, I'd like to talk about the
3 wetland destruction that will result from this
4 turbine project. This project will go through
5 several wetlands, some of which are close to some
6 family property, with little to no regard for the
7 environment or the animals that live there.

8 I don't believe there were enough
9 studies done to make it acceptable to destroy
10 wetlands and just purchase them somewhere else.
11 Wildlife harm is another topic I'd like to speak
12 about. A lot of the information has been redacted
13 from all of us, which I think is pretty disturbing.

14 As locals, we know the animals that
15 are in our area, and the eagles are just starting to
16 come back. And our town is right in the flight path
17 of many geese and ducks in the fall and spring. And
18 on the -- the list of redacted stuff, there's sixteen
19 endangered birds that we are not allowed to see.

20 And it's very concerning that they
21 don't want us to see this information. I think we
22 have a right to know what animals are going to be
23 disrupted.

24 Lastly, I'd like to talk about the
25 human health effects. They're a huge concern,

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2 migraine, sleep disruption, dizziness, anxiety, and
3 depression are just a few of the negative health
4 effects.

5 This is no way to live. How are you
6 supposed to live in a place that is causing all these
7 symptoms? Please consider saving our communities
8 from these monstrosities. We all live in this area
9 for its beauty and peacefulness.

10 Put yourself in our shoes. Would you
11 want something you worked so hard to have to be taken
12 away because of a few people benefit from it. New
13 York should be prioritizing the health and safety of
14 its residents and wildlife. Thank you.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
16 comments, please. Thank you -- thank you. Mary Anne
17 Tissot.

18 MS. TISSOT: Good evening. My name is
19 Mary Anne Tissot from Meridia. I'm here in the name
20 of creation, and I cherish and live here because of
21 the beauty that -- that the Finger Lakes region has
22 to offer. Farmland, lakes, clean air, wildlife, and
23 most of all, peace.

24 What will happen here will mess up the
25 peace of creation in the name of dollar signs. So

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2 please before you go to sleep tonight, take out the
3 dollar signs and think about creation. Thank you.

4 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
5 for your comments, Ms. Tissot, thank you. Bettina
6 Arleo, Ms. Arleo.

7 A.L.J. FAVREAU: One second.

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: One sec, all right.

9 MS. ARLEO: Good evening. My name is
10 Bettina Arleo, A-R-L-E-O. And I am here to defend
11 the land which cannot speak for itself. In Psalms
12 one 0 four verses fourteen and fifteen, God says, he
13 makes the grass grow for the livestock and provides
14 crops for man to cultivate, bringing forth food from
15 the earth, wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil
16 that makes his face to shine, and bread that sustains
17 his heart.

18 Then in Jeremiah two seven, God says,
19 I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit
20 and bounty, but you came and defiled my land and made
21 my inheritance detestable. In the book of Ezekiel
22 chapter twenty-two, verse thirty, God states that he
23 is looking for a man to defend the land. Along with
24 my husband, friends here tonight, and others that are
25 not present, I am defending the land from the

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2 defilement caused by the construction and use of the
3 proposed industrial turbines.

4 I am defending against infrasound
5 causing harm to the health of humans and wildlife.
6 I'm defending wrecking the beauty of this area. I am
7 defending turning agricultural land into industrial
8 land. I am defending the potential loss of property
9 value and tourism.

10 I'm defending against future land to
11 be used as landfill for the disposal of expired toxic
12 blades. And finally, I'm defending the water systems
13 critical to our existence. Our Finger Lakes are
14 already stressed with more frequent and severe
15 harmful algal blooms, and Cayuga Lake is having
16 herbicides dumped into it this summer for invasive
17 hydrilla control.

18 Cayuga and Owasco Lakes have been
19 particularly affected by HABs recently, the lakes are
20 stressed. Where is the proposed location of these
21 turbines? Right between these two already affected
22 lakes. Construction could disrupt water flow and
23 underground aquifers; toxins could leach into the
24 water. The cities of Auburn and Ithaca and
25 surrounding areas rely on the lakes and wells for

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2 clean drinking water. Turbines would only further
3 threaten their purity.

4 Cayuga and Tompkins Counties cannot
5 survive without clean drinking water from these two
6 lakes. As I said earlier, I am defending the land
7 and the water, and I say no to the turbines, and I
8 thank you for hearing and hope that you will act on
9 our behalf. Thank you.

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.
11 Lisa Guerrette. Folks, I don't know how else to say
12 it. Lisa Guerrette.

13 MS. GUERRETTE: Hi, my name is Lisa
14 Guerrette. I've been living in Moravia, town of
15 Venice for thirty-two years. We moved out there for
16 peace and quiet and the beauty of the land. Now it's
17 going to be ruined with these wind turbines.

18 These are not green energy, these are
19 run by anyone know? Diesel! They need to use diesel
20 to start them. Each turbine also deflects flaky
21 fiber materials into the environment, amount up to
22 one ton per year, this is polluting our air, water,
23 and land.

24 Countywide assessments will increase
25 our properties' values only to have them saleable and

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2 then the value will diminish. Now this wind turbine
3 is going to go up by my house about twenty-five
4 hundred feet away from my house, which now my sunset
5 will not be beautiful any longer.

6 I'll have a view of this wind turbine
7 with the flickering effects, not very happy about
8 that. And what about our wildlife? This is going to
9 cause destruction, lots of destruction, human
10 destruction. And also, they're planning on putting
11 up a concrete plant down the road from me also, which
12 is twenty-five hundred feet away.

13 This is going to ruin all of our roads
14 in our town. This is going to bring a lot of heavy
15 equipment and noise, it'll no longer be peace and
16 quiet. I moved to the country for peace and quiet.
17 If I wanted to live in a metropolis, I would have
18 moved there a long time ago.

19 This is not a good idea. You're
20 ruining our Finger Lakes, you're ruining our water
21 sources, you're ruining our environment, you are
22 ruining our land. And -- oh, talk about man and the
23 farmers, okay. Here's a good one, what's going to
24 happen to the cattle that's near some of these wind
25 turbines?

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2 The health risks for that, what about
3 their crops, what about the wind that dries out the
4 land? So what's going to happen then? Their crops
5 are going to die, not real happy about what's going
6 on, none -- none of the community is either.

7 This was all done hush-hush and a lot
8 of secrecy, and it all came out in the end. Is this
9 a done deal, can things change? I hope they will.
10 That's all I have to say.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
12 comment. I'm sorry. Eldridge, is it Melissa?

13 MS. NOMERIS: Joanne Nomeris.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Joanne.

15 MS. NOMERIS: Good evening and thank
16 you for the opportunity to speak. We are all
17 residents here of Scipio and Venice, and we're here
18 to voice a strong opposition to the proposed wind
19 turbine project in our community.

20 Our most urgent concern is water. The
21 wells, the natural springs that sustain homes, farms,
22 livestock, and wildlife. Once these are disrupted or
23 contaminated, the damage is permanent. We've seen
24 this happen in other communities after turbine
25 construction, and we can't allow this to happen here.

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2 We're also alarmed that the ORES
3 report addressing water impacts has been redacted.
4 The lack of transparency is unacceptable, and when
5 the health of our community is at stake, we don't
6 like it. Beyond water, we must also speak of the
7 mental health, the wellbeing of vulnerable residents,
8 turbine noise, shadow flicker, infrasound are all
9 known to trigger serious effects and issues for
10 individuals with P.T.S.D., autism, and sensory
11 sensitivities.

12 These impacts are real and well-
13 documented, and they cannot be ignored. That's why
14 we're calling for an end or at least a five-year
15 moratorium on any construction or development. We
16 need time for independent third-party studies that
17 are fully transparent and made available to the
18 public.

19 Studies that are honestly evaluated
20 and they evaluate the risks of our environment and
21 our people. We're also deeply concerned about the
22 RAPID Act, which threatens to override local
23 government. Our towns have zone agricultural, not
24 industrial, and we have the right to decide what
25 happens here.

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2 Our message is simple, no turbines, no
3 turbines in Scipio, no turbines in Venice. Not until
4 the truth is known and not at the cost of our water,
5 our health, and our community's future. Thank you
6 very much.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much,
8 thank you. Mister Jonathan Ryan. Come down to the
9 front, please have a seat, Mr. Ryan.

10 A.L.J. FAVREAU: Thank you very much
11 for coming.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Mr. Ryan, give me one
13 second, I need to call on Connie Walter, Bill Walter,
14 Paul Burbank, Michelle Frankfurter, and Shirley
15 Potter, have a seat down at the front. Folks,
16 please, you are the next five. Mr. Ryan, please give
17 us your comment, and you're welcome.

18 MR. RYAN: Thank you. My name is
19 Jonathan Ryan, R-Y-A-N. I am a resident of the town
20 of Venice, I'm a landowner in the town of Venice, I
21 own a business in the town of Venice, I'm a
22 commercial beekeeper. My primary concern is that
23 this project is going to require massive amounts of
24 very heavy trucking equipment, all kinds of wear and
25 tear on our small, narrow country roads. It's going

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2 to destroy them.

3 Who's going to pay for those roads to
4 be repaired? I suspect it'll be us, the landowners,
5 and the taxpayers in the town of Venice and Scipio.
6 At the same time, we're going to reap no benefit from
7 these, yet we're still going to end up paying for it.

8 We have had no say, no input, this is
9 being rammed down our throats. To me, this kind of
10 sounds like taxation without representation, and we
11 fought a war over that once upon a time. In -- in
12 addition to the financial aspects of all of this,
13 there's the -- the aesthetics, which you can't put a
14 price on that.

15 And who knows really what the
16 environmental impact will be, I don't think enough
17 studies have really been done. I think this project
18 is wrong, I hope it will not happen. And if you have
19 any input, please don't let it happen, please, I beg
20 of you. Thank you.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much,
22 sir. Folks, again I'm going to ask you to not
23 prolong the proceedings to check your cell phones
24 because we have a couple going off, so if you could
25 just make sure they're on silent. Connie Walter.

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2 MS. WALTER: Hello, my name is Connie
3 Walter, W-A-L-T-E-R. I've lived in Scipio for about
4 thirty years now, and I'm not really -- I'm not
5 really happy to be here, but, like all of us, we like
6 to do the right thing.

7 These wind turbines are being told as
8 being green energy and, they're really neither green
9 nor are they effective. They consume more energy to
10 build and install them than they'll ever produce,
11 making them a false promise.

12 Far from green, they are a permanent
13 blight on the cherished Finger Lakes. The landscape
14 carved by glaciers, drawing visitors for its stunning
15 views, vibrant wildlife, scenic sunsets -- serene
16 sunsets rather, thriving vineyards.

17 I spent years on my farm observing
18 wildlife, songbirds, especially migrating birds, and
19 my beloved eagles and ospreys. Within the area of
20 the wind project, five miles, there are several
21 eagles nest and osprey nest.

22 I feel that the studies downplay the
23 impact of these endangered raptors, and the redacted
24 data hides whether these studies are thorough enough.
25 It's far leaped to claim that these industrial giants

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2 belong in our agricultural area.

3 As far as real estate, I've been
4 selling real estate in the area for years, and I've
5 never had anyone ask in this area or in Central New
6 York area if they can find a home close to a wind
7 turbine. I truly believe that prices will plummet
8 for real estate, and I feel that the state standards
9 for the distances from homes for sound, vibration,
10 and flicker is way too low of a standard.

11 The state is pushing this residential
12 -- pushing for this in residential and agricultural
13 areas. I feel it's very reckless. The proposed
14 mitigation is -- is not enough. There -- to -- to --
15 to put this impact on people and say that here --
16 here's a mitigation and -- and you don't really know
17 how it's going to affect you, but here's something
18 that will compensate you.

19 It's kind of saying, let's settle this
20 before you know what will happen to you, it's a pre
21 settlement, and it's not really fair for people. I
22 feel the same with the community host agreements.
23 The -- the community never agreed to host this.

24 We're basically hostage to this
25 agreement, and it -- and it's basically a disaster.

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2 The studies need to be more in depth and more time
3 committed to them. Some things you just can't fix
4 with money, some things are priceless.

5 Mitigation to some of these things is
6 not acceptable. Please consider our request to deny
7 this application.

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
9 for your comment. Bill Walter, Bill Walter.

10 MR. WALTER: Good evening. Bill
11 Walter, W-A-L-T-E-R. I just want to thank you for
12 coming out tonight, thank you for your time ladies
13 and gentlemen.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: You're welcome, sir,
15 thank you.

16 MR. WALTER: I want to talk about
17 construction and more -- the word might be
18 destruction. I make a living in the community of
19 steel mills and metal, things like this, this is what
20 puts food on my table.

21 And I sit -- just the other day, I was
22 in Lackawanna, New York, and I saw a lay down yard
23 for one of these windmill projects, if you will,
24 turbine project. Staggering is the word you'd use
25 for the actual size of these things.

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2 You -- you think about a turbine blade
3 that is two hundred and seventy feet long, that's
4 five tractor trailers. I have a daughter that can't
5 make a turn in a car without hitting a curb. To
6 think of how these are going to be carved out, a
7 ninety degree turn here in the country and what
8 they're going to destruct to make -- to be able to
9 make these turns, it's just -- it's unfathomable.

10 People don't realize what's going to
11 happen as far as the noise, that'll be the big thing.
12 Water, right, water always wins. A wise man always
13 said water always wins, right. So you have all these
14 farmers who've been farming for years, and they --
15 they know where the water's going to go when it
16 rains.

17 What's going to happen when they start
18 digging around all here, rerouting drain tiles,
19 excuse me, rerouting ditches. Where's water going to
20 go? We really don't know, right? I don't have a
21 water problem today, maybe tomorrow at noon.

22 Construction is going to be proposed
23 for seven days a week, seven p.m. to eight p.m.,
24 Monday through Friday. I take it back Monday through
25 Saturday, and Sunday from eight to eight, seven days

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2 a week, nonstop noise.

3 My wife, she was just up here, we
4 talked about enjoying the natural beauty of this
5 area, the sounds of, you know, maybe a baby eagle
6 calling out for a little, you know, please give me a
7 fish, mom and dad, right? Kind of cool sounds,
8 right?

9 And now they're going to be replaced
10 for the next two years by heavy equipment shoving
11 dirt around, trees being chopped down, and God knows
12 what, right? And, you know, you talk about property,
13 you know, another hard and fast rule.

14 If I want to get somebody's attention,
15 I reach for the wallet, right? You'll get a reaction
16 every time, and that's what this is going to be,
17 they're going to come for your money. You have a
18 house that's worth three hundred grand, it's going to
19 be worth fifteen percent less right off the bat.

20 And I hear somebody say, they're going
21 to -- it's going to come back. Well I was around
22 from 2007, 2008, I lost some money in the stock
23 market, like, a lot of people did. If I saw it
24 coming, I would never -- I would have pulled that
25 money out, put some place safe.

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2 You guys seen this coming, they're
3 going to take our money, you can do something about
4 it. So thanks for your time.

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
6 comment, sir. Paul Burbank -- Paul Burbank.

7 MR. BURBANK: Good evening and thank
8 you for the opportunity to speak tonight through
9 overwhelming set of issues so far. I'm a resident of
10 the town of Owasco for the last twenty-two years.
11 I'm here tonight to express my strong opposition to
12 the proposed wind energy facility in the town of
13 Scipio and Venice.

14 Let me be clear, I somewhat support
15 clean energy and environmental progress, but this
16 project is not the right fit for this region. And
17 the consequences to this very special region could be
18 irreversible, as you've heard already.

19 The Finger Lakes depends heavily on
20 tourism, which generated over four point three eight
21 billion dollars in visitor spending in 2023 alone.
22 In Cayuga County, tourism supports more than fifteen
23 hundred jobs and brings in over nine million dollars
24 in tax revenue.

25 People come here for peace, rural

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2 beauty, wildlife, and unspoiled landscapes, not to
3 vacation within sight of industrial scale wind
4 turbines. There are over a hundred and thirty
5 wineries in the Finger Lakes region, dozens of
6 microbreweries, and distilleries.

7 Wine tourism relies on not only good
8 wine, but a wonderful tasting experience, and the
9 magnificent views of the Finger Lakes region are a
10 very important component of that. Installing massive
11 wind turbines, approximately six hundred and fifty
12 feet tall, would dramatically alter our scenic view
13 sheds and disrupt the very character that draws
14 people here in the first place.

15 It's not just a matter of opinion;
16 it's an economic risk. Lower tourism means lost
17 income, job cuts, and declining tax revenues that
18 affect every resident. I brought dozens of friends
19 to the Finger Lakes area over the years, and nearly
20 all of them keep coming back year after year, and
21 they spend money and enjoy all that the region has to
22 offer.

23 Beyond tourism, turbines bring
24 significant environmental concerns, burden bat
25 mortality that is well documented, and especially in

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2 migratory regions like ours. Bats are already in
3 great decline, and wind turbines only accelerate
4 that.

5 Habitat fragmentation --
6 fragmentation, noise pollution, and shadow flicker
7 will further disrupt both wildlife and the lives of
8 residents. I'm very concerned about the impact of
9 migratory birds and even the pollinators.

10 There are also very serious quality of
11 life issues that are not to be ignored. Turbines
12 produce mechanical and aerodynamic noise that led to
13 sleep disruption as many others have spoken about.
14 Shadow flicker, property value declines, and
15 industrialization of farmland will create division
16 and hardship within our towns that already struggle
17 to stay unified.

18 Let's be honest, Scipio and Venice are
19 being asked to bear the burdens of a facility that
20 primarily benefits corporate developers and energy
21 markets far from here. I'm out of time, but thank
22 you very much for listening.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
24 for your comments, sir. All right. Michelle
25 Frankfurter -- Michelle Frankfurter.

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2 MS. FRANKFURTER: Hello.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Hello, Ms.

4 Frankfurter.

5 MS. FRANKFURTER: Thank you for your
6 time. My name is Michelle Frankfurter, F-R-A-N-K-F-
7 U-R-T-E-R, and, yes, that's real. I was talking with
8 my husband, Paul Palazuki (phonetic) and he did
9 already submit some things online.

10 My question to him was, is there
11 anything that can be said today that could possibly
12 stop this project or actually get true facts, things
13 that aren't redacted, information that we can really
14 see. I've been a nurse for twenty plus years, and I
15 really am concerned about the health concerns.

16 From my house, we will be in view of
17 twenty-three out of twenty-four in the foreground and
18 mid ground turbines. What is the impact going to be?
19 Is it going to affect our well water? What is the
20 flickering? Are the vibrations?

21 Like this is our community, these are
22 my neighbors. They pull me out of the ditch when I
23 get the lawnmower stuck, they help me out. It really
24 is a genuine concern. Sitting here feels like the
25 burden of proof to determine harm is falling on the

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2 residents and the people of our community.

3 But so much information is redacted.
4 When you don't know, when you see the people standing
5 out there looking at the birds trying to figure out
6 who -- what's actually out there, how is it going to
7 impact us.

8 But sometimes they're sleeping in
9 their cars, sometimes they're -- you're like, look,
10 you see the raptors over there and they're looking
11 over there. You want to come sit on my porch, I'll
12 pour you a glass of wine. You can see what's really
13 out there.

14 You can look around my house and you
15 can sit there, and you'll see there's going to be a
16 turbine there, a turbine there, a turbine there, a
17 turbine there. Yeah, my quality of life is going to
18 be very much impacted, and no one can promise me or
19 tell me you're going to be okay in twenty years.

20 This is -- you're going to be able to
21 live here, you're going to sustain what you've built.
22 And yes, it would make great information about the
23 decrease in property values, the environmental
24 concerns, the historical concerns.

25 Do you know how many historically

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2 significant homes we have? Our house has been part
3 of their historical study; it's the Bennett House.
4 Yes, we are a Category A home. We're not on the
5 National Registry yet, but we could qualify it.

6 We have put so much time and effort to
7 make sure all the dents, fails, paint and everything
8 is still intact, we understand, but that doesn't seem
9 to be a concern. It's like, okay, just another --
10 there's some homes that weren't listed on the
11 historical data that they have.

12 There are airports that -- I know my
13 neighbor's airport wasn't listed on the list of
14 airports or let runways that were in the area. My
15 neighbors love to fly. They've done it, they've
16 taught their kids, this is another big impact to the
17 community.

18 I'm also concerned about the
19 limitations of our emergency management services.
20 Our volunteer fire departments only have so many
21 resources and so many volunteers, and we're not
22 getting more. So all these big trucks with all this
23 big stuff that can potentially roll over. Are we
24 prepared to help these people?

25 Yeah, neighbors will come flocking to

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2 help, but are we really prepared for what's coming?

3 Thank you.

4 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.

5 Shirley Potter -- Shirley Potter.

6 MS. POTTER: Thank you.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you.

8 MS. POTTER: Shirley Potter. I've
9 lived in Scipio for almost fifty years, a little over
10 fifty years, and I'm extremely against this project.
11 I'm all for renewable energy, but this project is not
12 clean or renewable.

13 There's a significant downside to this
14 project. If you look closer, the environmental
15 footprint is going to be greater than it will ever
16 do. The amount of energy that it creates is never
17 going to cover that environmental footprint.

18 You got to do the math. There's at
19 least four diesel trucks per turbine, there's twenty-
20 four turbines, that's ninety-six diesel trucks.
21 There's going to be diesel-operated cranes and
22 diesel-operated bulldozers brought in by more diesel
23 trucks.

24 The road damage that's going to be
25 done, more diesel trucks to fix the roads, and things

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2 like that. You've heard about the migratory birds.
3 There's a very real concern for our wellbeing in our
4 community. People who live near turbines talk about
5 sleeplessness, headaches, anxiety, dizziness, and the
6 low frequency noise also has physiologic effects.

7 This is also intermittent energy
8 producing power when the wind blows. If the wind
9 speed gets over fifty-five miles an hour, these
10 turbines shut down, they're not creating any energy.
11 And plus, that's going to add cost to our energy
12 infrastructure.

13 It's a massive burden on our rate
14 payers, which is going to cost more money for our
15 electric bills. You've heard about the -- the
16 wildlife and things. So New York State has a
17 responsibility to find sustainable energy instead of
18 rushing into these large turbine projects.

19 They should prioritize technologies
20 that have a lower environmental footprint and offer
21 greater stability without requiring massive backup
22 infrastructure. We must protect our landscape, our
23 wildlife, and the wellbeing of our citizens.

24 For these reasons, I ask you not to
25 permit Liberty to go on with this project. Thank

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2 you.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
4 for your comment. Do we have a David Eldridge? Do
5 we have a David Eldridge? Okay. Come on down and
6 have a seat, folks, you're going to have to get up in
7 this chair, sorry about that. Come down and have a
8 seat in the front, please, Alan Isselhard, Linda
9 Dungey, Tim Ormsby, Lydia Ruffini, Caleb Slater.

10 Come down and have seat in the front
11 row. Mr. Isselhard, Alan Isselhard. Please give us
12 your comments, sir.

13 MR. ISSELHARD: Alan Isselhard, I-S-S-
14 E-L-H-A-R-D. Good evening. Unfortunately, Cayuga
15 County and the towns of Scipio and Venice are now
16 threatened with up to twenty-four turbines, each six
17 hundred and fifty feet tall.

18 This project is called Agricola and
19 brought by Liberty Renewables of Albany, New York.
20 Energy promoter Liberty has invited themselves into
21 Cayuga County threatening the Finger Lakes beauty
22 forever. Liberty is a novice wind energy developer
23 and has not successfully completed one wind energy
24 project anywhere.

25 They are simply fishing right now.

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2 Cayuga County legislators, and Scipio and Venice Town
3 boards, you have the best wind turbine fighters to
4 prevent this project right now, and they are
5 President Donald Trump and New York State
6 Congresswoman Claudia Tenney.

7 Is there an American more opposed to
8 wind energy than President Trump? Trump has the
9 power via executive order to end this project
10 immediately at no cost to Cayuga County. Make every
11 effort to get their attention to achieve the goal to
12 defeat Agricola.

13 Cayuga and our legislators, don't let
14 this newcomer Liberty Renewable rape the beautiful
15 Scipio and Venice countryside. Forests and
16 landscapes will be ripped down and replaced by
17 turbines that won't last mechanically for twenty
18 years and then be left to rust and rot like an old
19 billboard or junk car waste.

20 Junk turbine blades piled nearby are
21 an unwelcome problem, deterring the inevitable
22 landfill. I don't know what the tallest man-made
23 object in Cayuga County is, but I guess Liberty
24 Renewable twenty-four turbines will be the county's
25 tallest objects and won't be admired.

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2 Unfortunately, residents of Scipio and
3 Venice in Cayuga County will experience the nuisance
4 every day until the project is stopped. Quality of
5 life issues such as wildlife concerns, habitat
6 fragmentation, carbon footprints of manufacturing,
7 noise, vibration, shadow flicker, aesthetics, lower
8 property values, property depreciation, view shed.

9 All of this hurts the residents of
10 these two counties or communities. Cayuga County
11 legislators should vote against the Agricola assault
12 on the beautiful Finger Lakes vistas as the Native
13 Americans saw it, not an unnatural, unwanted scene of
14 man-made aberration.

15 What happens if this project, once
16 approved, someday goes bust? Legislators, please
17 prevent this Agricola curse and vote by resolution
18 opposing the Agricola project. Thank you.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
20 for your comments, sir. Can I have Anita Dugey.
21 Anita Dungey.

22 MS. DUNGEY: Anita Dungey.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Dungey, sorry.

24 MS. DUNGEY: This project is about to
25 put an industrial energy facility in an agricultural

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2 district in your communities who rely on tourism.
3 Many objections and concerns have been raised,
4 undoubtedly. There are many more.

5 Some people couldn't be here, some
6 don't like public speaking, some just know these
7 projects are wrong, but can't put it into words.
8 There begins the problem, developers have years and
9 years, oodles of money and the backing of the state
10 to develop their plan.

11 We, the people, have a few months and
12 few dollars.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: We have two mic -- we
14 have two microphones, so the smaller one is with the
15 reporter and the one up here is for all statement, so
16 please continue.

17 MS. DUNGEY: Okay. A few extra.

18 A.L.J. FAVREAU: Sure, of course.

19 MS. DUNGEY: Thank you. Okay. There
20 begins the problem, developers have years and years
21 and oodles of money and the backing of the state to
22 develop their plan. We, the people, have a few
23 months and a few dollars to show that there are
24 problems.

25 Let me begin with an example. A young

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2 couple just moved into a house, smack dab in the
3 middle of a bunch of proposed turbines. It was
4 supposed to be their forever home. They aren't from
5 the area and had no idea about the project.

6 But if -- even if they had and wanted
7 to do a little research on, say, shadow flicker, they
8 wouldn't have been able to find much out because the
9 studies are so heavily redacted, which apparently is
10 okay, apparently allowed by the state.

11 Similarly, if a bird group wants to
12 advocate for the birds and do a little research to
13 confirm that the studies were accurate, they can't
14 because the studies are so heavily redacted. It's
15 the same with sound and the shadow flicker.

16 One has to ask why exactly have these
17 -- have these sound studies been so heavily redacted.
18 According to an expert who has been dealing with this
19 sort of thing, this is not the norm.

20 Okay. So let's carry the scenario of
21 the sound study now.

22 If we want to vet any of the
23 information in the sound study, one study would cost
24 us about sixty thousand dollars, we are told. Where
25 on Earth are we supposed to get that kind of money,

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2 that's a lot of bake sales and bottle drives.

3 Excessive flicker is -- flicker is
4 mitigated by offering blackout blinds or awnings or
5 tall shrubbery to help the people deal with it. It
6 sounds like being a prisoner in one's own home. Will
7 noise canceling headphones be next?

8 Regarding noise, lakes and valleys
9 often work like megaphones. Who's to say that those
10 living across the lake or at the far end Owasco Lake
11 won't be exposed to the sound above the limit, where
12 is that study?

13 These studies are like -- these
14 turbines are like giant fans drying the soil just
15 like the wind dries the laundry on the clothesline.
16 They are not suited for agricultural areas,
17 especially at a time when the state is so heavily
18 promoting the dairy industry.

19 These giant fans will be drying the
20 soil that is already compacted from destruction,
21 changing run-up patterns, affecting people's wells,
22 et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

23 For that matter, what kind of
24 infrastructure is in place and will remain in place
25 for the next thirty-five years, that will help those

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2 whose wells went bad or who need the blinds or
3 awnings replaced. You, the administrative watch
4 doesn't seem to take our concerns seriously.

5 But it's not just this community
6 because does -- dozens of other communities across
7 the state who are dealing with the same issues with
8 wind or solar energy. Our concerns are real, but
9 state agencies are encouraged, we all know what that
10 means, toward advancing the cause for renewable
11 energy.

12 But we, the citizens, whose -- whose
13 lives are most affected by all of this are thrown a
14 bone of ninety-nine thousand dollars that is split
15 between the two towns and any community groups to
16 prove our points. We are living our lives on a wing
17 and a prayer, this is wrong, everyone knows it. This
18 permit must be denied. Thank you.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
20 comment. Tim Ormsby.

21 MR. ORMSBY: Good evening.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Good evening, sir.

23 MR. ORMSBY: Tim Ormsby, O-R-M-S-B-Y.
24 I've lived on Owasco Lake since 1988, during that
25 time I've gained a deep appreciation for the Finger

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2 Lakes area, including the wildlife and the
3 environment in general, and the balance of nature
4 here.

5 Over the years I've seen the damage
6 zebra mussels had done, experienced algae blooms, and
7 watched the decimation of the ash trees due to the
8 emerald ash borers. But at the same time, I've noted
9 the return of eagles and osprey to the area, the slow
10 but steady recovery of bats after white-nose disease,
11 and the evident flow of various migratory birds.

12 The point is, the Finger Lakes is a
13 complex, fragile ecosystem that directly responds to
14 and requires responsible environmental stewardship to
15 survive and thrive. While the Liberty Agricola Wind
16 Farm may seem like environmental progress on the
17 surface, it is not.

18 The project poses serious threats to
19 the very environment it claims to benefit.
20 Specifically, the sprawling wind farm will require
21 clearing of land and the building of roads and
22 substations, wiping out ecosystems that have taken
23 centuries to form.

24 In the process, habitats used for both
25 nesting and migration and by native wildlife will be

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2 permanently destroyed. Then the turbine blades will
3 begin to spin, killing large numbers of birds and
4 bats on impact, while creating noise pollution at the
5 same time.

6 And when the wind farm reaches the end
7 of its life, what will be left is farmland to the
8 sideline for decades, if not forever. If you dealt
9 my predictions, I encourage you to read Liberty's own
10 permanent application number twenty-three dash zero
11 three zero zero two, which documents this very
12 progression, referencing respected organizations,
13 such as the New York State Department of
14 Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife Service, and the National Audubon Society.

16 Further, their applications related to
17 habitat state sixteen endangered, threatened, or
18 special concern species have been documented in the
19 vicinity of the facility site. It also documents
20 hundreds of raptors migrating through the area, and
21 as many as eighty bird species breeding in the area.

22 And even though the footprint is fifty
23 acres, Liberty has stated that hundreds of acres of
24 breeding and winter habitat used by some of these
25 species will be adversely impacted. Unfortunately,

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2 Liberty's answer to this damage is to implement a net
3 conservation benefit that is surely to be -- sure to
4 be marginally effective.

5 It simply consists of a patchwork of
6 measures to offset environmental damage with a hope
7 that nesting birds and other wildlife will relocate
8 and that dead birds will be made up for somewhere
9 else.

10 In summary, citing a wind farm between
11 two Finger Lakes skimming with life, just south of
12 Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, just west of
13 Owasco Flats Nature Preserve, and in the middle of a
14 waterfall flyway to Lake Ontario makes absolutely no
15 sense.

16 As such I respectfully ask you to stop
17 this project and avoid the irrevocable environmental
18 damage it will cause. Thank you.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
20 comment, sir. Lydia Ruffini.

21 MS. RUFFINI: I like the way you sing
22 it, thank you. Hi, I'm Lydia Patti Ruffini, P-A-T-T-
23 I space, no hyphen, R-U-F-F-I-N-I. Thank you. I
24 thank you very much for being here, I hope your being
25 here matters.

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2 Can I -- by show of hands, if you
3 don't mind, can I see the hands of Liberty
4 representatives in this room, please? Thank you. By
5 show of hands, can I see people who do not want
6 Liberty to go through with this project?

7 If it matters -- if it matters, that
8 vote is very lopsided. We do not want this; we do
9 not need this. They told us solar fields were going
10 to make a difference. Since they put solar fields
11 into upstate New York, my electricity price went up
12 more than twenty-five percent.

13 So that didn't help me at all, I hate
14 the view; there's nothing good about it. How are
15 these wind fields, and I won't call them farms, that
16 makes it sound too pretty, wind fields sound like
17 killing fields, and that's what it is.

18 Please, Hochul's not here to help us.
19 She's out playing tiddlywinks with folks from Texas
20 right now. We have some people here, representatives
21 from our county, Aileen, right? here are others,
22 your representatives.

23 Can we ask for a show of hands for our
24 local representatives here? Please talk to them,
25 your friends, family, everybody who are not here

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2 today, do something about this. We got to do it
3 before it happens. I ask you all, please -- please
4 don't let this happen to us.

5 It's not going to impact Liberty, not
6 in my backyard, do they have these things in their
7 backyard? I don't think so. And is my time up?

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: The clock did not
9 stop.

10 MS. RUFFINI: Do I get three more
11 minutes? I will not do that because it's important
12 that other people get an opportunity.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.

14 MS. RUFFINI: We have so many great
15 people here saying important things. I'm just afraid
16 that we're not being listened to. It wouldn't be the
17 first time; we need to be listened to.

18 And if it goes through anyway, and I
19 feel that it might, if it goes through anyway, we
20 need to find other ways to stop it. Do not let it
21 happen, this is our livelihood, this is our life. I
22 moved here from Buffalo, New York because I wanted to
23 live in this beautiful area. It's beautiful. Let's
24 not let them kill it. Thank you.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, Lydia.

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2 Caleb Slater. Mr. Slater, hold on one second.

3 MR. SLATER: Are you going to make
4 sure the clock works on me?

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Looks like Miller
6 Fedrizzi is the last name, Josh -- sure, yes. Pete -
7 - Pete Wirth, Buck Alford, and John Perun -- Perun.
8 You're next five speakers, please come and have a
9 seat in front. All right, sir.

10 MR. SLATER: Is that -- is that my
11 when? Okay.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes.

13 MR. SLATER: Okay. I've come to speak
14 out against this project for three reasons. Reason
15 one, the wind farm project threatens Cayuga County's
16 greatest asset, our land. Reason two, the project is
17 being forced on a community as we saw with the show
18 of hands that doesn't want it.

19 And reason three, there are no
20 guarantees that this project will even achieve its
21 goals. Reason number one, Cayuga County's most
22 valuable resource is its land. Open, fertile,
23 beautiful, and historically central to our way of
24 life.

25 From farming to tourism, recreation to

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2 wildlife habitat, the land sustains livelihoods and
3 communities throughout this county. A wind farm
4 permanently alters the landscape, installing massive
5 industrial structures that dominate sky lands,
6 fragment ecosystems, and disrupt the rural character
7 of our towns.

8 These turbines are not small; they're
9 hundreds of feet tall. This is not renewable
10 development, it's irreversible development, okay.
11 This is not just environmental, it's cultural,
12 agricultural, and economic.

13 Number two, this project is being
14 forced on a community that doesn't want it. It's not
15 being led by local citizens, it's being imposed,
16 imposed by Albany bureaucrats and out of community
17 corporate -- corporates that don't live here, don't
18 vote here, and won't be here to deal with the
19 consequences.

20 If this project were truly welcome, it
21 would have been -- it would have begun with
22 grassroots support, but it did not. This kind of
23 top-down policy making disrespects our local values
24 and our local voices.

25 Onto argument three, there are no

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2 guarantees that this project will even achieve its
3 goals. Supporters of the wind farm will say that
4 it's necessary to meet climate and green energy
5 targets, but they provide no guarantees.

6 Wind energy is intermittent. It
7 depends on weather; it needs backup from traditional
8 power sources. Without a full plan for energy
9 storage, distribution and reliability, these turbines
10 may produce inefficient or unusable energy, okay.

11 Worse, if the goals are not met, we
12 will have damaged our land, disrupted our communities
13 that are sacred to our rural identity for what? For
14 nothing. This is a gamble with no safety net. So in
15 closing, Cayuga County has always been a place where
16 local voices matter.

17 It's the top agricultural county in
18 all of New York State. The people who are here don't
19 want it. It's time to tell Albany and the
20 corporations backing this project we are not your
21 experiment, this is our home, and we say no.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. The
23 microphone is working.

24 The last name I think is Miller-
25 Fedrizzi. Sorry. That's the name on the sheet.

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2 Sorry.

3 MS. MILLER-FEDRIZZI: Judge Joseph,
4 Judge Favreau, distinguished guests, town
5 representatives, neighbors, thank you for allowing me
6 the time to speak. My name is Melissa Miller-
7 Fedrizzi, F-E-D-R-I-Z-Z-I. I am a resident of
8 southern Cayuga, specifically King Ferry, and I'm
9 also a practicing real estate broker and have been
10 since 1996.

11 I have a decent understanding of the
12 landscape of Scipio and Venice, Cayuga County --
13 Cayuga -- Cayuga and surrounding counties. While the
14 pursuit of renewable energy is commendable, we must
15 carefully consider the serious impacts such massive
16 structures have on our homes, our health, and our way
17 of life done in a residential area.

18 The proposed installation of twenty-
19 four, six-hundred-and-forty-foot wind turbines in our
20 communities at the southern end of Cayuga County and
21 Owasco Lake will be catastrophic for our community.
22 The height of these turbines, as Gary shared, is
23 higher than the Washington Monument and the St. Louis
24 Arch.

25 This only leads us to believe there's

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2 not adequate enough wind, and this is a total reach.

3 The other issues I would like to bring forth are

4 concerns of potable drinking water for our neighbors

5 and our safety, our roads, our tourism, quality of

6 life, and values -- property values.

7 Large turbines can cause vibrations of

8 groundwater disturbances that threaten the quality

9 and quantity of our well water, a central resource

10 for our households and farms. I know that many of

11 the wells in this area took years to settle with the

12 turbidity because of the shale and the clay, even

13 before these windmills.

14 To drill another well should their

15 wells go dry is not the answer. To haul water

16 indefinitely is not the answer. A house with no

17 water has absolutely no value. Our agriculture

18 community could face disruption. Construction and

19 operation may damage soil integrity and interfere

20 with farming activities.

21 The evidence of stillborn cows, birds,

22 threatens the livelihood of local farmers, which are

23 the backbone of our area. I -- I believe a few

24 landowners were identified, promised false

25 information, a P.R. firm was hired to sell this, and

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2 -- and this doesn't hold water on its own.

3 Again, redacted facts and towns, and
4 even used manipulation saying each of them, you are
5 the last one to sign. Property values will decline
6 with the proximity to large turbines. Houses near
7 these structures will remain abandoned once the
8 owners have had everything taken from them, their
9 water and their value. Some of these homes have been
10 handed down for multiple generations.

11 Should this project go forward, there
12 should be a proposed minimum of substantial multi-
13 million-dollar fund that needs to be set up to manage
14 for the local issues in cost of -- including the cost
15 of buying back their homes at pre-wind turbine
16 prices.

17 There will no longer be hot air
18 balloon rides, rerouting of helicopter rides, or
19 plane rides showcasing the Finger Lakes region. Not
20 to mention the mercy flights that are needed in a
21 rural community as they will be rerouted because it
22 is the fastest way to get someone to critical care in
23 a helicopter.

24 The emotional toll on the members is
25 significant. The noise, the shadow flick -- flicker,

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2 the visual impact, such towering as this will cause
3 stress, sleep disturbances. Quite frankly, I don't
4 understand why this has been put in an agricultural
5 residential area. I got it.

6 The Fedrizzi was long. Hold on. It
7 is also my experience that anything fast-tracked
8 without oversight means it was wrong, and it is
9 trying to be pushed through before anyone can
10 understand how bad and how wrong this actually is.

11 Given the concerns, I urge all of us
12 to carefully consider the benefits that -- the
13 benefits outweigh the project. Please don't insult
14 our intelligence by simply checking a box at a public
15 forum that is completed.

16 As you see, we are a community of
17 widespread unification. There are four hundred plus
18 people in this area, many of which are not in the
19 path of the destruction. Liberty did not give us an
20 opportunity to do this in person, and -- and may this
21 land on your shoulder. Please help us. Please
22 defend our lives.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
24 for your time. I got this, saying it the first time.
25 Josh Saville.

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2 MR. SAVILLE: My name is Josh Saville.
3 I live in Saville, S-A-V-I-L-L-E. I'm almost half-
4 tempted to use my three minutes as a moment of
5 silence because I feel like this is done and over. I
6 hope that that's not the case.

7 I grew up in Venice, moved down the
8 road in Scipio. I've been there forty-four years, my
9 whole life. Our area is you can't -- you can't put a
10 price on it. We live in one of the biggest flyways,
11 right in between Owasco and Cayuga Lake. I know this
12 personally because my business revolves around
13 wildlife.

14 Right now, we're already,
15 unfortunately, dealing with a lot of wildlife issues
16 as it is, as far as habitat goes. Jumping to the
17 technology of this stuff, I've heard that it's
18 already outdated. I don't know if that's true or
19 not. But if that is true, then that's -- that puts
20 us in a bad spot already. If it's not true, we all
21 know that technology advances really fast.

22 It's going to be outdated soon. And
23 my question is, what happens then? Do they come in
24 and update them? Do they shut them down? Do we have
25 to stare at them? I guess the real question I have

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2 is, how much money is enough? When are people going
3 to be happy? I -- we have everything right in front
4 of us.

5 A gorgeous area, and this has to
6 happen. I don't know what to do. I have five kids.
7 I've been married for, I don't know, most of my life.
8 Twenty, twenty, twenty years, right? I think it's
9 twenty. I want to -- I want to see my -- I want to
10 see my kids enjoy the area that we're in. I want to
11 see them grow up how I grew up.

12 And I don't know. I just -- I beg
13 that if this is our last chance, that you listen and
14 hear what we have to say and strongly consider it. I
15 want you to listen to the people that live in the
16 area, not the people that don't live in the area,
17 except for the two people that commented that live
18 across the lake. Thank you. They count, too.

19 But as far as -- I've -- I've been
20 seeing a lot of stuff online with -- I'll just call
21 them bots. I'm sure they're real people, but they're
22 making comments as if they live right there. If
23 they're not going to live there, they're not going to
24 have to deal with it. You know, so if you're going
25 to make a comment, come join us. Live next to them.

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2 So that's all I have. Thank you for listening, too.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much,
4 sir. Thank you. All right, Pete Wirth. Let's see,
5 that's officer. One second, sorry. That's Mr.
6 Wirth. And Mr. Wirth, you can use your time.

7 MR. WIRTH: Yeah, it's Pete Wirth.
8 That's W-I-R-T-H. I'm here tonight because I believe
9 in the science of climate change. Why? When I shop
10 at the Farmers' Market of Central New York and talk
11 with farmers, every farmer tells me the climate is
12 changing. They tell me how farming is harder because
13 the weather is more erratic than decades ago and
14 about crops they lost.

15 When I buy honey at the Farmers'
16 Market, the woman I buy it from tells me how erratic
17 winters are causing more bee mortality in her lives.
18 When farmers tell you the climate is changing, you
19 better believe it. I also grew up in New York City
20 in the boroughs and often took the subway.

21 New York City subways were designed
22 for the hundred-year flood of one point seven five
23 inches of rain per hour. After that, the drainage
24 system gets overwhelmed and they start to flood. Up
25 until 1991, these systems worked. Since 1991, there

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2 have been six intense rain events which have flooded
3 parts of the subway system.

4 The entire drainage system for the New
5 York City subways needs to be overhauled, costing
6 tens to hundreds of billions of dollars. Simple
7 science. Warmer air holds more moisture, which means
8 more intense storms. We need to stop burning fossil
9 fuels.

10 Now there are people -- there are
11 probably people in the audience tonight who are
12 skeptical or don't believe the science behind climate
13 change. All I can say, if someone you love gets
14 cancer, you want the best medical science available
15 to keep them alive. You'll become a believer in
16 science.

17 Pardon my French, but climate change
18 is quite frankly a pain in the ass. Why? Because it
19 is telling us we need to change how we produce our
20 energy, and change is hard. You will hear all sorts
21 of reasons people are opposed to solar or wind farms.
22 But basically, we want to keep things the way they
23 are. To some degree, we're all like that.

24 All I can say is, change is a part of
25 life. Embrace it, as hard as it may be. I think we

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2 also need to find again the spirit of my parents'
3 generation, of what was called the great generation
4 that fought in World War II. That generation
5 believed in sacrifice and the common good. I think
6 we have lost some of that and focus more on the
7 individual today.

8 We need to remind ourselves that we
9 should be willing to embrace change and sacrifice to
10 ensure that the generation that comes after us has
11 the same opportunity to return to a safe environment
12 as we did. I hope the wind farm will be built.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
14 comments, sir. Now Mr. Buck Alford?

15 MR. ALFORD: One second.

16 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yep, sure. I'm sorry,
17 sir. All right. Please get to your comment.

18 MR. ALFORD: Yeah, thank you. You've
19 had some great comments.

20 My name is Buck Alford, and I live in
21 Scipio, right in the heart of the proposed project.
22 And I do want to thank the gentleman for being here
23 and hosting the hearing, the opportunity to -- to
24 speak publicly and to participate in this form of the
25 democratic process.

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2 Ironically, though, it's, you know,
3 it's a subversion of the democratic process that
4 brings us here, in that we have a multinational
5 corporation, one with no real interest in our
6 community beyond its own profits, that is allowed to
7 or even encouraged by Albany to override local
8 governance, local zoning laws, and disregard the
9 desires and interests of local residents.

10 Nevertheless, we're here. And -- and
11 we find ourselves at a hearing pleading as a
12 community for permission, for permission to make our
13 own decisions. And so that's what I'm going to do is
14 plead a moment.

15 In the summer of 2019, my family, my
16 wife, five children, and myself moved from Atlanta,
17 Georgia to Scipio Center, of all places. For us, the
18 primary allure was family, the area's rural charm and
19 character, beautiful vistas, as Wendy said earlier,
20 just some of the most glorious I've ever seen, the
21 opportunity to raise our own meat and produce, and a
22 clean and healthy environment where to draw.

23 So in my first months here, I was
24 asked to serve on the committee to rewrite the town's
25 comprehensive plan. And not surprisingly, a

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2 community survey showed these very things, these
3 exact things, to be the top reasons why residents
4 love the community in Scipio.

5 And those are precisely the things,
6 rural character, rural charm, beautiful vistas, and a
7 healthy environment that we believe are under the
8 greatest threat with this project. Talk with
9 communities who have traveled this path before, and
10 we have. And while you're here, you've heard a lot
11 of it here tonight already.

12 Disastrous impact on migratory birds
13 and on wildlife, maddening shadow flicker, persistent
14 humming, declining property values, you've heard it
15 all. Compromised water sources, we're going to see
16 that specifically ourselves with our spring.
17 Hopefully not.

18 And that's if you don't ask too many
19 questions of the other communities and don't dig too
20 deeply or ask outside of the immediately impacted
21 area. Now I understand this is not the place to make
22 the case either for or against wind energy or other
23 renewable sources, though the case, I would say, is
24 not as compelling, if you gentlemen are curious and
25 do any reading outside of industry sources and the

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2 heavily redacted studies.

3 But what I will say is this. It is
4 not unreasonable to ask you gentlemen in your
5 position to proceed cautiously, carefully, when
6 deciding whether to approve the construction of
7 twenty-four, fifty plus story towers in our
8 community.

9 And that's all I'm asking for you to
10 do today, is to please proceed cautiously, explore
11 all the potential health impacts, and please consider
12 the interests and communities of our local residents.
13 Thank you.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much,
15 sir. John Perun? You are next, sir. Can we have,
16 come down to the front, please. Marilyn Donald.
17 David Turk, I think that's -- I'm sorry. Melinda
18 Knight. Dominic Gambarini, Brian Brundage, come
19 down, please. Have a seat in the front row. Mr.
20 Perun?

21 MR. PERUN: Perun.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Perun. Mr. Perun.

23 MR. PERUN: Close enough.

24 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right.

25 MR. PERUN: You're not the only one

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2 who makes mistakes.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I have three first
4 names, so it's okay. Mr. Perun, your statement,
5 please.

6 MR. PERUN: I'm from the town of
7 Owasco, on the east side of the lake.

8 COURT REPORTER: Can't hear you, come
9 closer to the mic.

10 MR. PERUN: I'm sorry. Can you hear
11 me better now? Yes, thank you. Town of Owasco, east
12 side of the Owasco Lake. I guess the first thing, I
13 would compliment all the speakers today, you've truly
14 given feedback that I wasn't clearly aware of, so I
15 appreciate it. I hope a lot of people get an
16 understanding and appreciate what's really happening
17 to our community.

18 I've been on Owasco Lake for, I hate
19 to say age-wise, fifty plus years, but time flies
20 when you're having fun, when you're enjoying the
21 environment, enjoying the water, and everything else.
22 A couple things I'd like to talk about, and, again, I
23 don't want to reinforce what's already been said very
24 well by a number of you, is, one, from an economic
25 standpoint, I appreciate the fact of a need for

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2 different sources of energy.

3 But as I look at wind energy versus
4 natural gas, my data point says it's like four times
5 as much the cost of wind energy versus natural gas.
6 That doesn't make me very happy. Secondly, what
7 about the backup requirements for this?

8 I understand there's battery backup
9 potential required, and, therefore, that would be an
10 impact, additional cost, and different additional
11 impacts. And then if you look at, from a financial
12 standpoint, subsidies. A few of you mentioned that
13 already.

14 I presume that the government is
15 subsidizing this, whether it be the state or federal.
16 Then the question is, what if it wasn't subsidized?
17 Would it even be viable? My guess would be not.
18 From an environmental standpoint, you all have talked
19 about many, many things here.

20 Again, new to me in understanding, but
21 the biggest thing I heard about I've always are the
22 blades. Once they're out of use, where do they go?
23 What happens to them? What are the implications of
24 that are for the land and everything else?

25 From a legislative standpoint, ORES,

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2 if I'm pronouncing that right, is part of the
3 executive branch of our New York State government.

4 That suggests that our governor has put this process
5 in place, but yet our legislators haven't had the
6 opportunity to vote and support any of these things.

7 So I look for them to be able to speak
8 up, those that are here and those elsewhere, to speak
9 about their positions on this project. It's -- we
10 need to make the right decision, and I think from
11 what I've heard today from all of you, the decision
12 should be clearly said that the permit should not be
13 approved. It should be rejected soundly. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir.
15 Marilyn Donald.

16 MS. DONALD: My name is Marilyn
17 Donald, D-O-N-A-L-D. I came here in '81 and I've
18 been here ever since. I joined the Finger Lakes. I
19 remember hearing in Fillmore Glen some Europeans come
20 here and say, can you believe these Americans? Look
21 how many animals they have in their parks. Nothing
22 like in Europe.

23 I mean, this is just a normal park.
24 Look how many they have. I heard -- I read somewhere
25 that this is a reluctant vacation land, and I think

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2 what that -- what they were saying is we all have
3 land with sky and trees and lakes and beauty and
4 peace and oxygen, like very few in the world do, but
5 we don't want New York City to come and Airbnb in our
6 backyard. You know, they might not be like us or
7 something. I don't know.

8 Anyway, I was born in Chicago. Eleven
9 months later, I was in India, and I spent most of my
10 childhood, first -- first fourteen years in a third-
11 world country where people live on one-fiftieth of
12 the natural resources that we do here. I had twenty-
13 one houses in my first twenty-two years. The first
14 eighteen of which were with my siblings and parents,
15 which was relatively settling, but nothing else was
16 settling about it.

17 And it just occurred to me, like the
18 village I grew up at in India, people were so poor.
19 Everybody was skinny, scabby. Kids grew -- kids
20 usually died before seven. They didn't even have a
21 birthday party until they were seven. The life
22 expectancy was forty, so hurry up and get your babies
23 and your farm, you know.

24 And if somebody planted a tomato
25 plant, they would have to have a little cottage to

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2 guard it, and they'd have to be near the canal so
3 they could bring water every day. The dust is that
4 thick in the bullock cart road, where the bullocks go
5 through so slowly, and you can hardly ride a bicycle
6 through it.

7 And we lived in the mountains, which
8 was much nicer for a lot of the time, and you could
9 see three hundred feet of dust just rising off. You
10 could see the curvature of the earth. You could see
11 one great water going into one sea, one great river
12 going into the other sea, and you could see the dust
13 three hundred feet high. That's when people were
14 poor, okay?

15 None of you are even close. Toilet
16 paper is not an issue in most of the world, and it
17 has never been an issue over time in most of history,
18 toilet paper. It just, I roll my eyes and just, I
19 wonder, how can these people be upset about no toilet
20 paper in the dollar store? Why?

21 I just want to say that basically, if
22 you want your health, if you want your children to
23 have a heritage, take what you got. Our fifty-two
24 acres are in a cabin where I lived for three months.
25 Could I just say one last thing, please?

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2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: One last thing, sure.

3 MS. DONALD: Okay. I want my
4 grandbabies to have that fifty acres. My husband
5 wants to sell it to the hunters, but I want that
6 cabin, its four-ceiling, three times the size of our
7 two-story cabin. I -- I want the soil that's six
8 inches deep and long soil black. The village I grew
9 up in would be richer if we didn't go anywhere except
10 my little mountain and my fifty-two acres.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. Thank you.
12 Your time has expired. Thank you. I'm sorry. Mr.
13 Turk, and, sir, could you take the microphone back
14 there and address us?

15 MR. TURK: My name is David Turk. I
16 grew up with my seven other siblings in Auburn, New
17 York. My parents and grandparents worked around
18 Owasco Lake going back two hundred years. I have
19 owned property at the southeast corner of Owasco Lake
20 now for thirty-six years, and I will see all twenty-
21 four wind turbines from my property.

22 I have been lucky enough, sirs, to
23 travel the world, to meet with professional people
24 who studied at the universities and colleges here in
25 the Finger Lakes. And I have been told by

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2 professionals in London, in Delhi, in Istanbul, and
3 even Venice, Italy, even beautiful Venice, that this
4 is one of the most precious and beautiful places on
5 the planet.

6 And -- and I only have to drive up
7 here from my home outside of New York City, and I'll
8 spend four hours getting up here and realize that
9 that is the truth. So I wonder why we are here,
10 quite frankly. I -- I cannot believe that New York
11 State would allow the degradation of one of the most
12 beautiful places on the planet.

13 And -- and -- and I'm talking about a
14 degradation that will occur because of the economic
15 fallout that will happen because of these turbines.
16 Lakes will die. Communities will die. And -- and
17 we're looking at something like what happened in the
18 Soviet Union to the Aral Sea, something that is
19 happening right now to the Great Salt Lake.

20 We're looking at death of natural
21 resources. Anyone who lives and has lived around
22 Owasco Lake knows it's changed. Now we do need
23 change. I agree with the gentleman. We cannot rely
24 on fossil fuel energy forever. But we should not use
25 the excuse of needed change to ruin this region.

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2 Change is not needed here.

3 And I have no problem with wind
4 turbines in other areas where they will not degrade
5 the environment and destroy human health, because
6 that's what we're looking at. And every single
7 person here enjoys this environment, but they're also
8 worried about health impacts.

9 Please, as the Department of Public
10 Service, please serve the public. Please, either
11 delay this proposal or nix it entirely. We look to
12 you. The power obviously has been taken away from
13 local municipalities. It's horrible. You would
14 think that we were the Soviet Union. Please sirs, we
15 are asking you, every single person here, please
16 intervene.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir.
18 Melinda Knight.

19 MS. KNIGHT: Good evening. I'm
20 Melinda Knight from Arabia, New York. I live in the
21 southeast part of Owasco Lake. I am greatly
22 encouraged by how many people are here and what I
23 have heard tonight. I cannot understand how this
24 project got as far as it did.

25 I really don't understand. It does

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2 not have the support of local government. The people
3 who designed this project did not listen to members
4 of the community. And the more I learned about this
5 project, the more appall -- appalled I became.

6 I'm sure many of us here went to the
7 so-called informational meetings where we asked a lot
8 of questions. And I always ask about, you know, what
9 will this do to the environment? What will this do
10 particularly to the beautiful wildlife in the nature
11 preserve right down the road from my house? And they
12 said, well, we've done studies. We've done studies.

13 But the thing about them doing the
14 studies is that no one said what the impact of those
15 studies would be. And so again, the more I learned
16 about this project, I believe it is a catastrophe for
17 this area.

18 This area is so beautiful, as so many
19 of our speakers tonight have said. And I'll mention
20 two of the wonderful features of our area. The
21 magnificent farms and agricultural production,
22 producing some of the most wonderful food you can get
23 anywhere in the world.

24 And the second aspect, tourism, and
25 the people who come here to vacate. The people who

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2 come here to see wildlife. The people who come to
3 enjoy the natural resources. I see no benefit
4 whatsoever from this project. But who's getting the
5 benefit from this project? Well, it's Liberty
6 Renewals.

7 They are getting the benefit. I see
8 no benefit for us. In fact, I see a lot of damage.
9 And let's talk a minute -- a bit -- a minute about
10 wind turbines. Yes, I do understand that wind is a
11 renewable source. But the turbines are not
12 renewable.

13 They are not. Think about what
14 happens to them when they die. You know, they flood
15 landfills. Think about the micro -- the -- the
16 plastics, all of that kind of stuff. They are not a
17 renewable piece of equipment. So I'm all for
18 renewable energy. But this isn't it.

19 And I'd finally like to say for all of
20 us who are homeowners here, what's going to happen to
21 our property values? And what happens to our
22 property values when they go down? And what happens
23 to our schools? And what happens to all the
24 infrastructure of our community? So I say to all of
25 you making a decision about this, no. I am opposed

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2 to this project.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
4 for your time. Dominic Gambaiani.

5 MR. GAMBAIANI: Good evening. My name
6 is Dominic Gambaiani, G-A-M-B-A-I-A-N-I. And I'm the
7 co-founder -- one of the co-founders of Cayuga
8 Climate Action. We are a local grassroots group of
9 citizens committed to addressing the environmental
10 crises that we face.

11 In the face of a changing climate with
12 effects seen today as we breathe in unhealthy air due
13 to Canadian wildfires, it is pertinent that we
14 progress to a cleaner future powered by renewable
15 energy. The Agricola Wind Project promises to assist
16 Cayuga County in that transition.

17 It is one of the many renewable
18 projects that must occur if we are to begin to wean
19 off oil and gas. There is a lot of opposition. And
20 we at Cayuga Climate Action urge you to listen to a
21 lot of the legitimate concerns and complaints and
22 address them in this project.

23 Especially in particular, the end of
24 the life cycle and the removal. We believe that the
25 land should be left as it was found and that no

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2 remains of the project and wind farm should remain
3 once the life cycle is over, among the other
4 legitimate concerns.

5 All things being said, this project is
6 one that sets Cayuga County up for more plentiful
7 energy created by wind. Therefore, Cayuga Climate
8 Action supports this project as we realize that there
9 are bigger threats to our region besides this
10 project.

11 In our little corner of the world, we
12 must do our part to transition to clean energy for
13 the survival of our planet and our generations down
14 the line. Small sacrifices like this wind farm
15 remind us of the larger picture and where we fit.

16 I'd also like to add for the record
17 that backyard and outdoor cats and buildings kill
18 more birds annually than wind turbines. I'd just
19 like to add that. Thank you again. I hope you do
20 listen to all the legitimate concerns that have been
21 stated before and thank you for putting on this
22 hearing.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Thank you,
24 sir. Brian Brundage.

25 MR. BRUNDAGE: Hello everyone. Brian

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2 Brunage, B-R-U-N-D-A-G-E. Thank you for coming.

3 Judges, I heard you say when you did your initial

4 charge that the project is required to provide

5 extensive information about the project, extensive

6 information. I've looked on the internet at some of

7 the documents.

8 I saw four hundred and sixteen

9 documents, ninety of which were marked as redacted.

10 And when I looked into those, they were more redacted

11 than the Mueller report. There was nothing but

12 black. There was no information on anything. You

13 know, where are the bird species that are endangered?

14 Black. Nothing. Okay?

15 So there's no information being

16 provided as you charge that this project is required

17 to provide. So therefore, it's not possible for us

18 to provide comments because we haven't been given

19 information. And therefore, the requirement for

20 public input is not being met.

21 And therefore, the permitting process

22 is invalid and should not proceed. Yet, the RAPID

23 Act says the ability of municipalities to enforce

24 local laws is curtailed if such laws conflict with

25 climate police -- policy objectives. In other words,

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2 if we don't like what you say, we're going to do it
3 anyway.

4 And further, the draft, this is a
5 quote -- the draft regulations include -- include an
6 automatic permit approval provision that would grant
7 a permit if the Office of Renewable Energy Siting,
8 ORES, fails to time to decide the application. So if
9 it gets dragged out, they're just going to grant the
10 permit anyway.

11 So why do I feel this is a put-out?
12 It's -- I -- I really don't have a lot of confidence
13 that our comments are going to really do any good. I
14 hope I'm wrong. Everybody here seems to be on the
15 same page, with a few exceptions.

16 And I think that's not the way a
17 representative of a republic should be run. That --
18 that's the -- the -- let the -- someone earlier
19 pointed out that it was the executive branch that
20 created these -- this verbiage in the statute that
21 says that the permitting can happen no matter what
22 the people think.

23 So I don't know where this could go
24 other than in my last seconds, I'm thinking ahead.
25 If this project gets approved, we're going to have to

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2 probably get some serious litigation and maybe bring
3 this up to the Supreme Court or something because for
4 the -- for the governor or whoever the executive
5 branch was to say, we don't care about what anyone
6 thinks.

7 We just don't care. We're going to do
8 it anyway. It's not the way it should go. So think
9 ahead. I hope that everybody is listened to and that
10 at least this gets delayed because there's no
11 information for us to work on. So good luck,
12 everybody.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Thank you
14 for coming. All right. All right, come down front,
15 please, our next five speakers, Jeffrey Calkins, I
16 think so. Calkins.

17 MR. CALKINS: Calkins.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Sorry about that. Ann
19 Marie Ruggles, Gary Pickett -- Duckett. Sorry. Ben
20 Ormsby and Ann Robson. All right, sir, please.

21 MR. CALKINS: Okay. Good evening,
22 Judges. Thank you for being here. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to come and comment. There have been so
24 many wonderful points made earlier, but I feel like
25 I'm repeating things, so I'll try to just amplify a

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2 few of them.

3 My name is Jeff Calkins, C-A-L-K-I-N-
4 S. I live on the east side of the Owasco Lake, and I
5 am speaking in strong opposition to the pen -- to the
6 pending permit for this project.

7 Clearly, I think that the permitting
8 project -- process is flawed in the sense that it's
9 already been mentioned. We're given redacted
10 information to read and comment on. That's hardly
11 the right way to run such a process. I also echo the
12 sentiment of many who have said the government should
13 be in the hands of the local people.

14 And I feel like we, as the local
15 citizens, are being stripped of our rights here in
16 that process. So thousands of people who will be
17 impacted by this project have not had the chance to
18 date to be appropriately involved.

19 The second thing I'd like to amplify,
20 as has been said before, is that the proposed site is
21 really an incredibly poor choice for such a project.
22 For reasons that have been mentioned, a beautiful
23 agricultural and scenic area, pristine, near an inn
24 and known migratory bird flyway.

25 And you've heard, I think, the

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2 heartfelt comments of people who are worried about
3 the impact on their health and their -- and their
4 family -- family's health and the property values. I
5 would also like to make the point that the U.S.
6 Congress and the President have recently signed law
7 that seriously brings back the timing of tax
8 subsidies available for such projects.

9 Let's listen to the wisdom of our U.S.
10 Congress and President who are putting an end to this
11 and have already done -- have already rescinded
12 projects for offshore projects. I'd like to also
13 just point out, for those who think it's time for
14 change, for new energy, I totally agree with you.

15 The best thing we could be doing is
16 investing more in nuclear power. I want to point out
17 a startling statistic. This project will produce one
18 hundred megawatts, but the national average in terms
19 of effective output is twenty-five to thirty percent.

20 So let's say thirty per -- thirty
21 megawatts. One nuclear power plant will produce,
22 derated by seven percent, nine hundred and thirty
23 megawatts. That means one nuclear reactor could --
24 could be the same energy as twenty-five or thirty of
25 these entire projects.

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2 Put that in your brain for a minute.

3 It's astounding. And that's clean energy. I'd like
4 to just close by thanking you again for hearing us
5 and echoing the sentiment of many that I hope you
6 will truly listen and act accordingly. Thank you.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir. Thank
8 you very much. Ms. Ruggles.

9 MS. RUGGLES: It's nice to see you
10 again.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: How are you doing?

12 MS. RUGGLES: It's Ann Ruggles, R-U-G-
13 G-L-E-S. I'm a New York State taxpayer, my second
14 national grid customer. I am a member of Southern
15 Hills Wind Watch, and I spent twenty-seven years of
16 my career in the type testing and safety
17 certification of renewable energy prod -- products
18 with one of the world's largest testing companies
19 doing both field work and product evaluations in the
20 lab.

21 I'm here today to support this
22 community and protect them from some of the things
23 that we are seeing as potential hazards to them,
24 their property, and also their -- their animals, as
25 has been discussed. I also want to bring up that

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2 that is also ORES' job, is to protect. You know, we
3 -- we fund ORES through New York State, through our
4 taxes and D.P.S., and we really need your help right
5 now.

6 When you -- when you look at -- when
7 you look at the fact that they're putting utility
8 scale power plants into these regional areas, we need
9 more robust activity, more protection. And the
10 developers and the manufacturers are only going to
11 need the lowest common denominator. It is up to ORES
12 to protect our environment, which is in your mission
13 statement in the first paragraph.

14 I would like also to -- speaker six or
15 seven spoke very eloquently about don't fear. Don't
16 fear the project. You need to learn more. Look at
17 the reports. Well that's what this is about. And if
18 I look at Matter Master, there's too many loose ends,
19 and I'd like to just share one of them at least.

20 This is in response to supplemental
21 application. The category was public health and
22 safety. It had to do with the geographical area of
23 the turbine tips and that it was in a high-risk zone
24 and a higher-risk zone for certain turbines, unknown
25 to us which ones, of impact during ice throw events.

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2 And so it went on to say ORES
3 responded. They said that -- they said in the
4 applicant's opinion, should procedures for specific
5 training be developed and implemented to adequately
6 prepare area first responders, we admitted it's a
7 risk. We've admitted it's an extreme risk. Why are
8 we asking the applicant? You know, we need
9 protection.

10 And to me, that was a second round of
11 comments, so that's concerning. The other one was
12 clarifying liability for property damage due to
13 blasting which also came up, so I won't spend too
14 much time on that. That was a second round of
15 comments. That should have -- this developer should
16 have -- that should be already resolved.

17 Who's liable when these people's wells
18 go dry or their garage gets busted down? I was going
19 to focus on complaint procedures. I would advise all
20 of you to go to Nextera and Bluestone, because I
21 cannot find Liberty, and look what you're up against
22 once this project is finished, because that's when
23 the trouble starts. And I thank you for your time.

24 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
25 for your time. Gary Duckett?

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2 MR. DUCKETT: Okay. Well, I'm here
3 opposing the project for all the reasons that the
4 people have talked about. I'm just going to hit the
5 bullet points. I'm not going to try to elaborate on
6 it. But obviously, the visibility of this thing is
7 clearly an eye sore. There's nobody in this room, I
8 don't think, that would debate that, even the ones
9 that want renewable energy.

10 The other thing I'm concerned about,
11 I'm concerned about the effect on tourism. I was on
12 the tourism board for probably fourteen years, and
13 tourism is one of the biggest contributors to revenue
14 in this county. Obviously Owasco Lake is solely in
15 the County of Cayuga, and I believe this would have
16 an impact on -- on our tourism, and that could be
17 very negative.

18 I read a little bit about this low-
19 frequency sound thing, but I can't really speak on it
20 with authority, because I don't understand it
21 completely. But I live within five miles of it, the
22 town of Owasco, on the east side of Owasco Lake.
23 That would concern me.

24 I -- I feel terrible for the people
25 that live in Venice, Scipio. I was brought up in

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2 Fleming, and I lived for one year in Auburn, and the
3 rest of my life in Owasco. I feel terrible for the
4 people of Scipio in Venice that have to put up with
5 this. It's an awful thing.

6 I've taken great pleasure in the fact
7 that there's an eagle nest one -- one house away from
8 my -- my -- my property that I own, and we watched
9 the eagles clutch -- clutch babies one year. It was
10 just a pleasure to see that. And I don't think
11 anybody in here debates if these things kill eagles.

12 If we finally get our eagles back, and
13 we're going to kill them. It's a really sad, sad
14 thing. The other thing that I haven't heard people
15 talk about is the flickering of the lights from the
16 turbine blades, but the blinking lights at night.

17 One of the things I don't like about
18 cell towers, even though at least they serve
19 everybody, but the cell towers have those blinking
20 lights. And if -- if there's one cell tower in my
21 vista at night, there's going to be twenty-four of
22 these things, and they're going to look like hell for
23 everybody.

24 I don't know if anybody that has
25 mentioned that, but these blinking lights, unless you

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2 can somehow just get the planes notified, but these
3 things are so tall that the planes can fly under them
4 for heaven's sake.

5 And the last thing I just want to say
6 is it's a horrible thing that our tax dollars are
7 being spent on this. Our infrastructure is a mess in
8 Cayuga County. I know we've got some legislators
9 here. Our county office building is a mess.

10 Our roads, our bridges, our water and
11 sewer systems are -- are need work. Let's spend
12 money where it can actually help the people as
13 opposed to this thing. If these things were really
14 viable, then they wouldn't need to have our tax
15 dollars paying for them. Thank you. Thank you for
16 your attention.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir. Ben
18 Ormsby.

19 MR. ORMSBY: I like the -- price is
20 right. Okay. So I've heard so many people talk and
21 kind of repeat things that I was going to say, so I'm
22 going to go a little off script for what I meant to
23 do when I came here. I've lived here for over thirty
24 years, and I plan to stay.

25 ORES is meant to balance state energy

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2 goals with environmental protection and community
3 input. But despite this project being pretty far
4 along, many of my neighbors hadn't heard about it
5 until recently, and their reactions were
6 overwhelmingly negative. As a high school teacher, I
7 like to ask my students two questions when addressing
8 coal rising issues.

9 First I ask, what do you think? They
10 typically have an answer. And then I ask, what type
11 or amount of evidence would it take for you to change
12 your mind? So I'm asking those same questions
13 tonight.

14 When it comes to grid -- grid
15 reliability and emissions, earlier this year my
16 school got a request to reduce electricity use.

17 We're supposed to turn down lights,
18 draw the shades. And on that day, according to state
19 data, wind supplied five percent of state power.
20 While dual fuel, which includes oil, the dirtiest
21 fuel we commonly use, is ramped up to thirty-three
22 percent as we demand. We end up relying on the
23 dirtiest sources when wind can't deliver.

24 How about economic harm? This project
25 would bring only three long-term jobs, while

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2 threatening our tourism economy and property values.

3 A recent study by Berkeley, funded by the Department
4 of Energy, found that home values within a mile of
5 turbines dropped about eleven percent after project
6 announcement.

7 Most homeowners aren't leasing their
8 lands for turbines, but they'll drive costs. This
9 project does not align with our economic vision. How
10 about knowing that wildlife will be killed?

11 According to the environmental impact documents,
12 these turbines will take, which means to kill, birds
13 and bats, including endangered, threatened, and
14 unprotected species like bald eagles and osprey.

15 These species have rebounded thanks to
16 decades of conservation. New York State did great
17 things, including banning T.G.T. and prioritizing
18 habitat. Eagles and osprey weren't always a common
19 sight on Owasco Lake, but they are now. Are we
20 willing to reverse that progress? So what type or
21 amount of effort would it take to change people's
22 minds about having this project? And my final
23 thought is I might have to leave early to take care
24 of my dog.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Thank you

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2 very much for your comments, sir. Ann Robson.

3 MS. ROBSON: Good evening. My name is
4 Ann Robson, R-O-B-S-O-N. And I reside on West Lake
5 Road in the Town of Scipio. My comments are in
6 opposition to the process taken by the State of New
7 York in draft permitting a major industrial wind
8 facility in my town.

9 The proposed project does not comply
10 with the town's zoning ordinance, or as has wavered,
11 the town's setback requirements, and does not conform
12 with decommissioning and site restoration
13 requirements.

14 A state agency has usurped the right
15 of local town government of their due process and
16 disregards the town's zoning ordinance through the
17 Article 8 process.

18 The proposed industrial wind project
19 fails to preserve natural resources, scenic vistas,
20 maintaining agricultural land, abatement of air and
21 water pollution, and of excessive and unnecessary
22 noise. This is a blatant disregard to the residents
23 of this community who have developed and adopted a
24 worthwhile comprehensive plan.

25 Our local economy and environmental

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2 resources are of major importance and are threatened.

3 The potential dangers on soil health and soil and
4 water management posed by utility-scale wind turbines
5 are being ignored.

6 Lastly, it is disturbing to see all
7 the redactions in the draft application to ORES on
8 the Agricola project. A lot of information has been
9 withheld from the public on impact of threatened and
10 endangered species, risk of blade failure, fire,
11 negative impacts to property value, potential
12 groundwater issues, and personal health.

13 I'm grateful for the opportunity to be
14 here this evening and speak my mind, but this project
15 is not for our community. Thank you.

16 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
17 for your comments. All right. Okay. Our next
18 group, Stephen Helmin. Mr. Helmin, Colleen Rejman,
19 Dawn Rejman, or Rejman, sorry.

20 COURT REPORTER: Rejman.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Rejman.

22 COURT REPORTER: Rejman.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Colleen Rejman and
24 Dawn Rejman. Hamilton Gernski, Gernski and Claude
25 Bonadea.

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2 A.L.J. FAVREAU: Mr. Helmin, you can
3 come up. Good evening, sir.

4 MR. HELMIN: Okay. Good evening,
5 Judge. And thank you so much for the opportunity to
6 comment. I'm Steve Helmin. I'm with Stop Energy
7 Sprawl. We're a statewide organization, and we're
8 here to support the folks opposing this project
9 tonight.

10 We're a grassroots, all-volunteer, no-
11 corporate-money coalition of forty plus community
12 groups, municipalities, and elected officials from
13 across New York State opposing these land-wasting,
14 large-scale industrial electric facilities. They are
15 industrial facilities, not farms.

16 We say climate change is real, but New
17 York's Climate Action Plan is not. And I'll say it
18 wrong, Agricola Wind is a -- is a perfect example of a
19 project that doesn't quite fit this. It claims to
20 support seventeen thousand households, nearly forty
21 thousand people by my calculation.

22 Where is that? The two towns, Scipio
23 and Venice have about three thousand people
24 altogether. So the purported electricity it's going
25 to create is not going to be helping those towns.

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2 It's going to be exported somewhere else.

3 It's intermittent, and if we -- if we
4 built an entire grid on that, on this kind of thing,
5 we'd be in the dark right now. And it makes us
6 vulnerable because when it doesn't produce, as the
7 one gentleman just told us, when it doesn't produce
8 electricity, we have to rely on peaker plants fueled
9 most likely by oil and gas.

10 So building these facilities makes us
11 more dependent upon oil and gas. It claims to help
12 the economy. It says it's going to bring jobs. From
13 where? Those three thousand people are going to have
14 -- have a lot of jobs that help build this thing, and
15 for how long? Maybe a year? Maybe.

16 I believe it actually hurts the
17 economy. It especially hurts tourism. People come
18 here to get away from it all, to get back to nature
19 and go to the wineries. How does one get away from
20 it all with the whooshing and the spinning of
21 turbines in your favorite vacation spot?

22 Will the sound of the construction
23 crews and diesel trucks on Sunday morning with heavy
24 loads going over the local roads remind you it's time
25 to go to the wineries? Will the traffic snarls and

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2 delays as the developer attempts to negotiate the
3 winding country roads with insanely long turbine
4 blades encourage folks to wait for their sip of
5 Gewürztraminer?

6 Or will they turn around and go back
7 home? And I know we're in the Riesling and
8 Chardonnay realms, but I like a Gewürztraminer, so
9 hopefully that's okay. Will the summer people and
10 the tourists come back? Will they accept the new
11 skyline? Will rental prices plummet on their homes
12 as tourists reduce their reviews?

13 New York's Finger Lakes are unique.
14 Why are we putting Scipio and Venice's economy,
15 environment, and community well-being at risk?
16 Except for the developer, the gains are not. Thank
17 you.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir.

19 MS. REJMAN: Thank you for allowing us
20 to have our say here. Colleen Rejman, R-E-J-M-A-N.
21 I've been in Venice for fifty-one years. I own a
22 trucking company. First thing I want to say before I
23 forget this is whoever said sacrifice, you think
24 about how you're going to feel if you have no water.

25 Now that is the biggest issue. These

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2 guys don't even have a plan for where they're going
3 to get the water. They're going to build a cement
4 plant. Where are they going to get the water? I
5 have three wells on my property. I have been, you
6 know, scrounging for water ever since I've lived in
7 Venice.

8 And all the issues that go along with
9 building these turbines. And I apologize. I'm going
10 to skip around because a lot of my stuff has been
11 covered, so I apologize for that. But first of all,
12 I went to the first meeting these people had at
13 Fillmore Glen, which I thought was kind of strange at
14 the time because why aren't they in Venice?

15 Why aren't they in Scipio? And I saw
16 some of the people there that have since signed up,
17 but these guys were so misleading. You know, you'll
18 never hear any more than a hum of a refrigerator out
19 of these things. You know, they never, you know,
20 talked about any of the bad things that can happen.

21 You know with all this great energy,
22 let me tell you guys what is in one of these
23 turbines. A hundred and eighty-seven gallons of
24 grease, forty gallons of hydraulic oil, a hundred and
25 six gallons of gear -- gear oil, fifteen hundred and

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2 eighty-five gallons of dielectric fluid, sorry if I
3 mispronounce that.

4 Seven hundred and ninety-three gallons
5 of diesel fuel, two hundred and forty-three pounds of
6 sulfur hexafluoride, three hundred and fifty-seven
7 gallons of propylene gly -- glycol, forty-eight
8 gallons of ethylene glycol, you know?

9 So you know, one thing I've read a lot
10 about, nobody talks about the disadvantages. And --
11 and I'm -- I'm all for wind power, but there's places
12 for it. And Venice and Scipio are not the places.
13 So I'm -- I'm okay for green energy, but it's got to
14 be in the right place where it's not going to have
15 this effect on people.

16 So I don't know what studies they did
17 on water, but again, that is huge in my book. I've
18 got to have water to survive. And Venice is a small
19 town, and we don't have a lot of money. We don't
20 have a large tax base. And one of my concerns is,
21 how are we going to support, you know, we have a
22 small-town crew.

23 They're very good at what they do.
24 They do a great job, but they can only do so much.
25 And these roads are going to get torn to heck. I

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2 live almost in the center of town. I live on a hill.
3 I own a trucking company, so I know quite a bit about
4 trucks. You know, asking questions.

5 How heavy are these loads going to be?
6 It takes several times to finally get an answer, you
7 know, trying to find out. Oh, shoot. Well, thank
8 you. Sorry.

9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: That's fine. You can
10 submit a -- you can submit a -- a longer written
11 comment.

12 MS. REJMAN: Yes. I'll write it.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Anyone can do that.
14 Your written comments can be as long as you'd like.
15 Let's hear from Dawn Rejman.

16 MS. REJMAN: Dawn Rejman, R-E-J-M-A-N.
17 I've also been a resident of Venice Center for nearly
18 fifty years. We love the views. One of my concerns
19 is, we also have a shallow well. It's only twenty-
20 nine feet deep. In the years that we have been
21 there, we've never had a problem with our water.

22 But I'm thinking when they start
23 excavating, start drilling, start blasting holes,
24 they're going to mess with the water table. That is
25 not fair to our community, to anyone. Some of my

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2 other concerns about industrial wind turbines in the
3 towns of Venice and Scipio Center include, but are
4 not limited to, turbines can generate noise and also
5 vibration that disrupts sleep.

6 Everybody knows you need a good
7 night's sleep. Furthermore, rotating of the turbine
8 blades can create a flickering effect, which can
9 potentially trigger health results. A lot of people
10 are getting older in their community. They don't
11 need any added stress on their health.

12 Lastly, environmental concerns such as
13 soil compaction, along with animal habitat
14 destruction, and most importantly, impacts on our
15 water resources. Thank you.

16 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.

17 MS. BONADEA: Claude -- Claude Bonadea
18 from right here in Auburn.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Could you hold on one
20 second?

21 MS. BONADEA: Yes.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Oh, here. Thank you.
23 Thank you. Claude Bonadea. All right. Thanks --
24 thank you very much. Please, go ahead.

25 MS. BONADEA: Yes, spelled B-O-N-E --

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2 B-O-N-E, sorry. B-O-N-A-D-E-A. Sorry about that.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: No, you're fine.

4 MS. BONADEA: Okay. So I was at the
5 Y.M.C.A. yesterday, and this was on the table. It
6 says that they want me to come down here and speak
7 out against the windmill, you know, which I'm not
8 inclined to do. I -- they offered free pizza, and I
9 did eat the pizza.

10 It was a little bit hard, the crust,
11 but, you know, the topping, the cheese on top was
12 delicious, so, you know. Anyway, that's off topic.
13 I'm wasting my time. So listen, look, you know, it
14 says here, like, I -- I -- I -- I hear, like, about
15 the concerns about the water, okay? That sounds very
16 concerning.

17 About transparency, that sounds
18 concerning. I mean I can't get that there's
19 environmental impacts soon done -- being done, and I
20 hope you guys are being thorough with that and making
21 sure that they don't fly by night company. I mean, I
22 don't love corporations, but, I mean, you guys are
23 doing, I -- I assume, like some sort of investigation
24 into this.

25 And frankly, we need -- we need more

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2 green energy. And I know you're saying this ain't
3 green, but this seems like a bunch of, you know,
4 b.s., honestly. Like, it says here that there's, you
5 know, that there's companies from China. Oh no,
6 scary China. You know, oh no. They might -- they --
7 they're saying this is out of state, out of county.

8 You know, I mean, international, but
9 then I'm hearing it's from Albany. I mean, it is
10 true that cats kill a heck of a ton of birds. You
11 know, I care about birds. I don't hate birds. I
12 love the beauty in this area. Look they couldn't
13 even find an ugly picture for -- of windmills.

14 This is kind of a pretty picture. You
15 know I know there's no projection up here, but these
16 are the people who are against the windmill, and they
17 couldn't even find an ugly picture of a windmill. I
18 was on a bus from Plattsburgh to Albany, and I drove
19 by some on the highway. I thought they were neat.

20 And honestly, the landscape looked
21 fine, you know. So look, I know I didn't say that in
22 the most eloquently way possible, but a number of
23 other people have spoken quite to the point, and I
24 don't need to reiterate every darn point they made,
25 but this really honestly sounds like after turfing,

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2 and a lot of you, I'm afraid, I'm sorry, are NIMBYs
3 and turfs. I mean, NIMBYs and, you know, mega dukes.
4 Have a nice night.

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Thank you
6 very much.

7 MS. BONADEA: And I'd be very proud
8 for my county to have these windmills, if they're
9 done with, you know, due diligence.

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Okay. All
11 right, ma'am. Thank you. Okay.

12 MS. BONADEA: ***0221-AUDIO 2***
13 neighborhood.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Hold on.

15 MS. BONADEA: I would love to have
16 these windmills. Hey, when your property values
17 drop, lose your house.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Ma'am, all right.
19 Excuse me. Excuse me. Sorry.

20 MS. BONADEA: Sorry.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. All right.
22 That's all I -- so, let's all remain calm. We're
23 coming to the end, and I have, I think, our last
24 eight or nine speaker cards.

25 Folks, if you intended to speak

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2 tonight and you have not filled out a card, please go
3 to the registration table and do that right now.
4 Thank you very much.

5 Our next speakers are Thomas Robinson.
6 Lorsky, it looks like -- it looks like Sapphire
7 Lorsky, or Lonsky. Thomas Robinson, Sapphire Lonsky
8 or someone with a similar name. I'm sorry about
9 that. Robert Donald, Leo Giannini, Doug Howard.
10 Thomas Robinson is first.

11 Mr. Robinson? I think so too. All
12 right. Lonsky Sapphire, I'm sorry, Sapphire.

13 MS. SAPPHIRE: Sapphire Lonsky.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Sapphire Lonsky. All
15 right.

16 A.L.J. FAVREAU: Thank you very much.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Please give us your
18 comment about the project.

19 MS. SAPPHIRE: I am against the
20 project. Thank you. One of the reasons is a lot of
21 people have addressed the animal portion and the
22 wildlife. I'm going to address the family life
23 portion.

24 Some of you know I have a son who has
25 special needs, sensory disorders, sensory issues. So

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2 sound and noise can trigger attacks and that limits
3 my social gatherings. Okay.

4 This also, project would also deny us
5 ability to go to certain areas. This project will
6 keep me from taking my son to visit my friend who's
7 going to have it built by her house, because the
8 sound will have him screaming.

9 Now I ask you all who have children to
10 go back to the day when your first newborn was in bed
11 and you thought you got the peace for your child to
12 go to sleep. And you're going to lay down in bed,
13 okay? And you're about to fall asleep and your kid
14 starts screaming at the top of their lungs.

15 And what is your instinct? You get
16 up, you're -- you're -- you're panicked. You're
17 trying to figure out what's going on, why your child
18 is screaming? Now try living that all the time just,
19 from a sound. Now, the flash point on these wind
20 turbines. Okay, is three minutes. My son suffers
21 from seizures.

22 Okay. Three minutes to respond to
23 light sensitivities, things like that. The -- the
24 three minutes may not mean a lot to you, but in three
25 minutes of a seizure, my son stops breathing.

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2 MS.: Right.

3 MS. SAPPHIRE: My son has to have
4 medication, shove up his derriere to bring him out of
5 a seizure and then, brought to the hospital. Okay?
6 I do everything I can to avoid any things to trigger
7 an attack, anything to trigger a seizure.

8 Right down to providing and growing my
9 own food. I rely on local farmers to barter with my
10 family for the hay. The Shields provide pumpkins and
11 squash for my animals that I turn around and feed my
12 son. He's on a ketogenic diet, which is supposed to
13 stop seizures and help control them because he does
14 not respond to medication.

15 So for my family and for a lot of
16 families who cannot come out here because our kids do
17 not allow us to come out, I'm asking you and I'm
18 begging you to think about the fact that this is
19 going to limit more for those kids that are already
20 struggling with everyday life.

21 My son cannot stand the sound. Okay.
22 So let me give you a picture. When my son's, the
23 sound is so loud, he starts screaming, make it stop,
24 make it stop, it hurts. Try living that every day
25 and not being able to go to visit family, to visit

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2 friends.

3 My church lives down that way. And
4 the community picnic that the church puts on is going
5 to be in the path of these things, which means I'm
6 saying goodbye to my family, my friends, and my
7 community. Please don't make me do that anymore than
8 I already have to for my son and any other kid who
9 suffers with these things.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's true.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
12 for your comment. Thank you very much. I appreciate
13 that. Yes, Robert Donald.

14 MR. DONALD: My name is Robert Donald.
15 And the spelling of my last name is D-O-N-A-L-D. And
16 I'm a farmer in the Town of Venice and we have land
17 in Venice and Scipio. And it compromised about
18 fourteen hundred acres of ground.

19 And we had the chance to put three
20 windmills on our farm. Early on when they come
21 around, sign up people, whoever and we told them no.
22 And they were kind of disappointed, but I couldn't
23 see the value in, you know, destroying good farmland
24 for the sake of producing energy for probably New
25 York City.

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2 And I think if they want electricity
3 in New York City, they should build windows down New
4 York City. And they can put the pumps in the subways
5 down there around electricity to put out the subways
6 when rains hard. But I won't take long, because most
7 of the points that I wanted to make have already been
8 made here already.

9 So the -- we had a bird study down on
10 the farm before they -- before I told them no. See
11 they had -- some giving you an idea how accurate the
12 bird study was, I -- I went up our back road, one of
13 our farms and I see a car parked alongside the road.

14 There was a gentleman laying on a
15 reclining lawn chair asleep. And he seen me coming
16 and he jumped up, took his binoculars started
17 looking. So that's how accurate the bird study was.
18 He was sleeping when the birds were flying over.

19 So -- so I -- I'm -- I'm questioning
20 everything they had done is probably weighted in
21 their favor. And I think local control is done right
22 here in Cayuga County or the Town of Venice and the
23 Town of Scipio, not in Albany or Washington D.C.
24 either.

25 So I still got a minute left. I'll

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2 let it go to the next guy. Thanks.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir. Leo
4 Giannini.

5 MR. GIANNINI: Hello, my name is Mark
6 Harris. I'm actually reading this on behalf of Leo
7 Giannini.

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay.

9 MR. GIANNINI (Read by Mark Harris):
10 If you know Leo, Leo's, like Mr. Donald, the last
11 speaker. So he's quite a bit taller than I am. So
12 he sent these notes and when I looked at the notes, I
13 definitely agreed that I would read this.

14 He's out in Wisconsin right now
15 checking out one of his largest flagpoles that he
16 has. So these are his notes. So this is a textbook
17 case of cost-push socialism. A government-led effort
18 to force a socially engineered energy transition onto
19 rural communities regardless of cost, consent, or
20 consequence.

21 This isn't about clean energy
22 innovation, it's about centralized planning where
23 Albany's ideological climate targets take precedence
24 over rural voices, market logic, and common sense.

25 The true costs, grid expansion,

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2 transmission lines, land degradation, property
3 devaluation will not reflect a clean energy future,
4 rather a reality that will be externalized to -- to
5 residents and taxpayers long after developers and
6 State officials have moved on.

7 Real progress involves local input,
8 economic sustainability, and transparency. This
9 isn't it. I urge you all to oppose this project and
10 demand that the State respect the right of rural
11 communities to chart their own path before we all pay
12 the price for someone else's political agenda.
13 Submitted by Leo Giannini.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.
15 Mr. Howard. Our last group come please -- please
16 come down and have seats in the front. Jeff Calkins,
17 Derek Grassman. Why do I keep taking those off?
18 Kathy Jenks and Hamilton Gernski -- sorry, Gernski.

19 All right. Have a seat in front row
20 folks. Mr. Howard, your statement please.

21 MR. HOWARD: Doug Howard, H-O-W-A-R-D.
22 Can I have a quick show of hands for everyone who is
23 against moving forward with this windmill project?
24 I'm with all of them. My name is Doug Howard. My
25 wife and I live off of Fire Lane fifteen on the West

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2 Shore of Owasco Lake.

3 We've called this place home for four
4 years, but our connection to this place goes way back
5 further. For over a decade before moving here, we
6 vacationed here on the shoreline every summer. At
7 first, it was just an escape, a long weekend here and
8 there, but something -- something -- something about
9 this place pulled us in.

10 We had lived our whole lives in
11 Milwaukee, which is a vibrant city, but like most
12 cities, it came with concrete chaos and the constant
13 hum of machinery. Each time we returned to Owasco,
14 we felt something stir inside us.

15 The mornings here are quiet in a way
16 that speaks to your soul. You wake up to the sound
17 of water laughing against the shore. You see deer
18 stepping into the trees. You see eagles flying over
19 the lake. You see sunlight flickering through trees.

20 It's the exact opposite of everything
21 we knew. And it's exactly what we didn't know we
22 were looking for in our life. Eventually we made the
23 leap. We left behind the city skyline and the
24 sterile gray of urban life and we came here to
25 embrace something real, something beautiful,

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2 something rare.

3 And that's why this proposed wind
4 turbine project feels so wrong. We're not against
5 clean energy and this is not about that. But placing
6 -- placing dozens of six hundred and fifty-foot-tall
7 towers, taller than the Statue of Liberty in one of
8 the most pristine and historic lake regions in New
9 York is -- is a -- is a permanent decision.

10 And it's a decision that trades the
11 natural soul of this place for the cold silhouette of
12 industry. The impact of this decision is going to
13 ripple outward, too. Tourists are going to stop
14 coming to see a lake that's overshadowed by metal
15 giants.

16 Property values are going to drop,
17 along with the hopes of homeowners who invested their
18 lives and their income here. The peace that my
19 family came here for, the peace that draws people to
20 this region every summer, is going to be shattered.

21 Owasco Lake is more than a location,
22 it's a legacy. It's a refuge and it's a living
23 reminder of what makes upstate New York
24 extraordinary. And once that's lost, we're not going
25 to get it back. So tonight, I urge you as stewards

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2 of this region's future to remember what's at stake.

3 I urge you to say no to living under a
4 steel shadow. And I urge you to saying yes, to
5 preserving the soul of Owasco. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you. All right.
7 Jeff Calkins or Keller?

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. Derek Grassman.

9 MR. GRASSMAN: Hi, I'm Derek Grassman
10 and I'm an engineer and technology expert in the
11 energy field. I was asked to come here because are -
12 - or some people from your community -- from your
13 community wanted information about the technology
14 spoken about.

15 You guys have done your research, so
16 you know, so it's been very interesting for me to --
17 to watch. The thing I don't understand about this
18 project is that the reason the turbines have to be --

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Can you speak in the -
20 -

21 MR. GRASSMAN: -- at --

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: -- speak in the mic a
23 little more please?

24 MR. GRASSMAN: Yes, sir. The reason
25 the turbines have to be at such a high elevation is

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2 because it's the wrong technology. It is outdated.

3 And I also don't understand why you picked such a

4 beautiful place when you have Nine Mile right in

5 Oswego that sits on nine hundred acres that already

6 has the interconnect for the high-tension power

7 lines. It makes absolutely no sense.

8 So I'm not sure why a project like

9 this would ever get approval, but I feel like

10 possibly your politicians are already owned. So but

11 thank you.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you. Kathy

13 Jenks.

14 MS. JENKS: Uh-huh.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Ms. Jenks.

16 MS. JENKS: I'm Kathy Jo Jenks. I'm a

17 mother and a local teacher. I have three children

18 with autism and one with epilepsy. And although I

19 live in Auburn, I have many friends that live in the

20 area and I travel through the area on a regular

21 basis.

22 I also have family and friends down in

23 Steuben County where there is a large wind turbine

24 area. We're not able to visit that family because of

25 those wind time -- wind turbines. I have children

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2 that can't tolerate the sound.

3 And even with the ear protective
4 coverings, that does not help. And my epileptic
5 daughter goes into seizures unless she wears a
6 blindfold to -- to drive to my family's house. And I
7 just don't feel that any person should be deprived of
8 those senses in order to have a wind turbine in their
9 area. That's it.

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I'm just going to
11 check one last time, I'll make sure Thomas Robinson
12 is not here and Jeff Calkins or possibly Keller and
13 David Eldridge. None of the above? Okay. All
14 right. And Hamilton and I'm sorry, again, Gransi or
15 --

16 MS.: Gernski.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: -- Gernski --

18 MS.: Gernski.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Is that person here?
20 With the first name Hamilton. All right.

21 In that case, all speakers wishing to
22 provide a statement today have been called. There
23 are no additional speakers signed up? No? All
24 right.

25 Let the record reflect no other

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2 members of the public have registered to provide a
3 statement for the record at this time. I want to
4 remind you that anyone wishing to make a comment may
5 do so in writing until five p.m. on Friday, August
6 8th, 2025.

7 The information is on the fact sheet.
8 There is no limit to the length of your written
9 comment. Thank you for your comments today, for
10 participating. Thank you to our staff and to the
11 court reporter and to our State Police officers. And
12 with that, the hearing is concluded. The time is now
13 eight fifty-two. This hearing is concluded. We are
14 off the record.

15 (The hearing concluded at 8:52 p.m.)

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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, ANNETTE LAINSON, do hereby certify that the foregoing
4 was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place,
5 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that
6 the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of
7 pages number 1 to 137, inclusive, is a true record
8 prepared by Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. from
9 materials provided by me.

10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
11 subscribed my name, this the 13th day of August, 2025.

12

13 ANNETTE LAINSON, Reporter

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