



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2026

Zeryai Hagos
Interim Executive Director
Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission
New York State

Dear Mr. Hagos,

I am writing to express my very serious and continued concerns with Hecate Energy LLC's proposed Shepherd's Run solar development project in Craryville, within the Town of Copake. The Revised Draft Permit should not be approved while important questions about the project remain unanswered.

For example, it is entirely unclear how the proposed project would affect the community's shared resources and institutions. The project site includes valuable agricultural land that has long supported local families and contributes to Copake's rural economy and community. Any proposal to convert this land requires clear and convincing reasoning, along with firm stewardship obligations, none of which has been provided to date.

Further, the Revised Draft Permit would allow Hecate Energy LLC to provide critical wetland and floodplain data after a Final Permit is issued on October 19. This is unacceptable. Your office should not move forward with a project without having all relevant information necessary to understand how it will impact the local community.

In addition to my concerns about the impacts of the project on the Copake community, I am concerned that your office issued a Revised Draft Permit for Hecate Energy LLC with a shortened public comment period. This decision denies my constituents in Columbia County a meaningful opportunity to share their continued concerns and prevents a full evaluation of the revised permit.

New York State's transition to renewable energy is an important public objective, which I support. However, projects of this scale require a high standard of accountability, transparency,

and meaningful community participation to ensure that local and regional impacts are fully understood and addressed. That standard has not been met here.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues. I respectfully request a written response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' with a large loop on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Josh Riley
Member of Congress