



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

May 6, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Hagos,

I am writing to express my very serious concerns with Hecate Energy LLC's proposed Shepherd's Run solar development project in Craryville, within the Town of Copake. The project should not be approved while there are so many important questions that remain unanswered and while community opposition remains so substantial.

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 ironclad stewardship obligations, none of which has been provided to date.

In addition, the proposed project would be sited close to the Taconic Hills Central School District, yet there has been insufficient publicly-available information about the project's impact on the school's operations, including with respect to emergency preparedness. Students, their families, and the community deserve comprehensive and transparent planning in these circumstances.

These are just two of the many concerns that the community has raised about the proposed project. They are important in their own right, but they also illustrate a broader problem here: the process for community engagement has been inadequate. Members of our community deserve a meaningful opportunity to provide input, ask questions, and receive timely, substantive responses from Hecate Energy LLC.

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 structured 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