



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

James Skoufis  
Assemblyman 99th District

January 5, 2013

Hon. Jeffrey Cohen  
Acting Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Hon. Jeffrey Cohen:

Per the instructions of Public Information Officer James Denn, I am writing to request a meeting of a member or members of the PSC or, if not possible, a high-level staffer from the department. The pending case I am referencing is the Champlain Hudson Power Express, specifically the exit of the project into Stony Point, one of the municipalities I represent.

I understand that there were public hearings on the project, including one in April 2012 in Rockland County. This issue has become extremely salient with Stony Point residents since then, however, as people have learned of the repercussions of the project. This is evidenced by a hearing that was held in Stony Point in October of 2012 by the State Energy and Telecommunications Committee where to say there was standing room-only would be an understatement. There is overwhelming - to the point of virtually exclusive - opposition to the project by local residents.

There is a local, organized effort to raise awareness of the repercussions of this portion of the Champlain Hudson Power Express. I am strongly encouraging - and will not stop encouraging until it happens - that a meeting take place in Stony Point between the PSC and/or a high-level staffer in the department and the local aforementioned group. Walking the actual line of the proposed project as well as seeing and listening to their presentation is critical and, frankly, required in order to make an informed decision.

Among other concerns, the project will require eminent domain to be used and, worst case, removing lifelong residents from their homes or, best case, dramatically diminishing property value to the point that selling is impossible. Additionally, numerous local businesses will be affected via eminent domain. Most horrific is that the proposed route runs through a Revolutionary War cemetery with veterans from that era. I have already contacted major news outlets regarding the proposed desecration and will continue to push the story until a

meeting is agreed to.

Local organizers have told me that they are willing to meet any time, any day. Public comments are simply not adequate to understand the scope of the damage that will be done. I truly hope you will find the time to meet with us in Stony Point.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

James Skoufis  
Member of Assembly