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November 7, 2009

New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350


Gentlemen:

Attached please find a letter written by me, concerning the siting of the proposed New York Regional Interconnect Power Line, (NYRI). The entire subject of power lines is anathema to many of us due to the high handed, and at the same time, underhanded, way that many of us were subjected to the inequity, and iniquity, of the Marcy South Power Line. Especially those of us who were treated so unfairly by the PSC when it chose the Western Alternate route, against the main route.

We are only asking for a fair hearing this time, and not having to bear the burden of an injudicious choice of an alternate route. We feel we have legitimate complaints, and can offer suggestions to make for a much better choice of a route.

Hopefully these suggestions will be taken seriously, and weighed against other plans, and ideas.

Respectfully,



Sidney L. Friedman

Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that a route for the proposed NYRI has still not been decided upon. As one of the unfortunate landowners who was tromped on by Marcy South, I thought I would make some positions fairly clear early in the game. We on the Western Alternate won our case in front of the PSC Hearing Examiner. But then the ex-head of the PSC, a certain individual by the name of Gioia, bowed to political and moneyed pressure, and changed the route to the Western Alternate from the Main Route way East of us. The entire situation reeked of subterfuge and favoritism, let alone string pulling. Some members of the Commission voiced their discomfort over the authority that Gioia wielded on them. But by then it was too late.

- 1) We would prefer a route using the New York Thruway as the right-of-way. There would be no need to further despoil the environment, or to usurp private land ownership.
- 2) Expenses would be lowered as no private land owners would have to be compensated under eminent domain acquisition.
- 3) Costs would be lessened, as towers and cable could be transported from nearby Hudson River landing sites for unloading, and trucking to the erection sites.
- 4) The line could facilitate hook-up to the proposed gas fired power plants that once were envisioned to be built along the Hudson, to feed DownState users.
- 5) These gas fired plants would be able to take advantage of the natural gas soon to be available in wholesale quantities from both Marcellus, and Utica, shale deposits. Short runs of piping could carry the gas from wellheads and collection points, right to the plants.

In the event that the PSC does get fixated on the Marcy South Line, then I have another line to propose;

- 1) Running a line along the existing right-of-way is like an open invitation to terrorists. Imagine one stop shopping where you could park a vehicle and have not one, but two, transmission lines in easy reach to sabotage. It would be like an open invite for extreme mischief.
- 2) Where we are in Otsego County the line was routed on us to avoid entering Hartwick State Forest. There is a long detour, with two dog-legs that added a lot of length to the line, affected many additional landowners, and greatly added to the line's cost of construction. Afterwards the DEC stated that they would have had no objection to the line going through the State land, but nobody ever thought to ask.
- 3) Therefore we ask that if the Marcy South route is chosen, that the line be run straight from the original departure point, to where the zig-zagging ended, just North of Gilbert Lake State park
- 4) Costs would be lowered drastically, much beautiful terrain would be left unspoiled, and a lot of landowners made very happy. (John Turnbull, my departed dairyman farmer friend and neighbor, would beam down ecstatically from his milking stool, just behind the Pearly Gates.)

If it comes down to the Marcy South route being selected, you can of course expect a raft of objections from the affected landowners, both judicially, politically, legally, and personal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Turnbull", written in a cursive, flowing style.