

1 9/30/2025 - Fort Edward Solar, LLC - 23-03023

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

4 OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING

5 AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

6 (ORES)

7 ORES DM Matter No. # 23-03023 - Application of

8 Fort Edward Solar, LLC, c/o Boralex, Inc., for a

9 Major Renewable Energy Facility Siting Permit

10 Pursuant to Article VIII of the New York State

11 Public Service Law to Construct and Operate a 100-

12 Megawatt (MW) Solar Energy Facility Located in the

13 Towns of Town of Fort Edward, Washington County.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

15 DATE: September 30, 2025 at 6:01 p.m.

16 LOCATION: Durkeetown Baptist Church

17 2 Durkeetown Road

18 Fort Edward, New York 12828

19 BEFORE: A.L.J. JOHN L. FAVREAU

20 A.L.J. DAWN MACKILLOP-SOLLER

21
22 Reported by Danielle Christian
23
24
25

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2 (The hearing commenced at 6:00 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: I call ORES
4 D.M.M. matter number twenty-three dash zero three
5 zero two three in the matter of the Application of
6 Fort Edwards Solar, L.L.C., for a major renewable
7 energy facility siting permit pursuant to Article 8
8 of the New York State Public Service Law to develop,
9 design, construct, operate, maintain and decommission
10 a one hundred-megawatt solar energy facility located
11 in the town of Fort Edward, Washington County.

12 Good evening, everyone, and welcome to
13 the public comment hearing this evening. I do see
14 some familiar faces in the audience, and again, I'd
15 like to welcome everyone this evening, and we're
16 looking forward to receiving your comments.

17 My name is Dawn MacKillop-Soller, and
18 to my left is John Favreau. We're administrative law
19 judges for the Department of Public Service Office of
20 Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission,
21 also known as ORES, Office of Hearings. We will be
22 presiding over this public comment hearing this
23 evening to receive your comments about an application
24 by Fort Edwards Solar, L.L.C., for a siting permit to
25 construct and operate a one hundred-megawatt solar

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2 energy facility in the town of Fort Edward,
3 Washington County, and the draft permit conditions
4 ORES staff issued on July 28, 2025. Included in the
5 draft permit are uniform standards and conditions for
6 the siting, design, construction and operation of the
7 proposed facility.

8 I have some information to explain to
9 you tonight about the process and how we'll be moving
10 forward with this public comment hearing this
11 evening, so I have some information to explain to
12 you, and I'll do that at this time. The hearing was
13 scheduled in a public notice issued on July 28th,
14 2025. The notice advised all parties affected by the
15 facility of the opportunity to voice concerns,
16 opinions, and suggestions on the application and
17 draft permit conditions as part of the decision-
18 making process.

19 The notice was posted on the project
20 website and served on the party list, and all persons
21 required to receive copies of the application
22 pursuant to our regulations at 16 N.Y.C.R.R. 1100-
23 1.6a and 1100-1.6c. The notice was also published in
24 the Post Star and Glens Falls Chronicle newspapers on
25 May 2nd, 2024, and in the Washington County Free

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2 Press newspaper on May 3rd, 2024.

3 As part of the application process,
4 the permit applicant is required to provide extensive
5 information about the proposed facility, which ORES
6 will thoroughly review, including the project's
7 location, size and design, and most importantly, its
8 potential environmental, economic, and social impacts
9 on the community, including its agricultural and
10 wetlands and water resources, geology, and wildlife.
11 Impacts to public health and safety, land use,
12 transportation, and security issues are also
13 examined, along with visual and noise impacts.

14 Equally important is a review of the
15 project's compliance with the Town's local laws and
16 regulations. This hearing provides a platform for
17 all of you here this evening to offer your views on
18 these issues. Your feedback helps shape the final
19 decision on the application. Copies of the
20 application and draft permit conditions are available
21 on the Department of Public Service website, and I'll
22 give you some of this specific information now, but
23 I'd like to tell you, all of it is at the front desk
24 when you checked in, right there. You'll be able to
25 find the project's website and all the information on

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2 the project, including the project number and the
3 specific name for the project.

4 The website is www.dps.ny.gov forward
5 slash ORES hyphen permit hyphen applications. By
6 clicking on the project permit application number,
7 that number is twenty-three dash zero three zero two
8 three, next to the case name, which is Fort Edward
9 Solar. Or by contacting the office by email at
10 [ORES.hearings at dps.ny.gov](mailto:ORES.hearings@dps.ny.gov). The case name and
11 number are important if you want additional
12 information about the project.

13 You may post your comment on the
14 Department's website at www.dps.ny.gov forward slash
15 ORES hyphen permit hyphen application, using case
16 number twenty-three dash zero three zero two three.
17 You may also mail your comments to ORES or email your
18 comments to [ORES.hearings at dps.ny.gov](mailto:ORES.hearings@dps.ny.gov). I know this
19 is a lot of information and it's very specific,
20 again, it's all on a condensed sheet at the desk
21 where you checked in, in case you need it this
22 evening. Comments must be submitted electronically
23 or postmarked by five p.m. on Friday, October 3rd,
24 2025. Detailed information about how to post or mail
25 comments is also available at the desk where you

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2 checked in.

3 So some of the procedures that we will
4 follow this evening for taking your public comments
5 as we're about to begin, the hearing is not designed
6 to be a question and answer period. It's designed
7 for you to come up and state your comments. You'll
8 go right up to the podium. And what I'll do is,
9 before you step up to the podium, I'll call speakers
10 about five at a time. We do not have many registered
11 speakers tonight. You can register to speak at any
12 time if you decide that you'd like to make a
13 statement as we move forward. But I'll call five at
14 a time to sit in these seats in the front row. I
15 have found that it helps move the hearing forward
16 efficiently when we do it that way. And then once
17 those five speakers speak and they give their
18 comments, those individuals can have a seat back in
19 their seats, and I'll call the next five people up.

20 We've been limiting comments to about
21 three to five minutes this evening. We'll do that
22 about the same, so all comments will be limited to
23 four minutes. That should be enough time to give a
24 public comment this evening. If there are any
25 comments you'd still like to make after the four

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2 minutes is up, please feel free to submit those
3 comments by the written comment deadline date, okay?

4 This hearing, I'd like to remind you,
5 is your opportunity to comment and for us to consider
6 your comments, which will become part of the official
7 record in this matter and will be reviewed by ORES in
8 considering the application concerning the proposed
9 project and the draft permit conditions. We'd also
10 like to stress that the comments this evening be
11 about this particular project, the project at issue.
12 So we'll have your comments stay focused on that this
13 evening, and I thank you very much for keeping that
14 in mind.

15 So we'll be calling the speakers in
16 the order in which I received the speaker cards. And
17 again, you can fill out a speaker card and just let
18 me know if you didn't do so already, and I'll go
19 ahead and call you up at any time you can fill that
20 speaker card out. If you do not wish to make an oral
21 statement today, but you would like your views
22 included in the record, you may also submit a written
23 statement as I previously discussed.

24 When I do call your name, after you've
25 been seated in the five seats up front, I would just

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2 ask that you state your name clearly for the record
3 and also spell your name. And thank you very much.
4 You can ask me any questions as we move forward, if
5 there's anything you require clarification on
6 regarding the procedures. So let's go ahead and get
7 started with the public comment hearing. Our first
8 speaker this evening is Samantha Peck. So you can
9 take a seat right in the front row. And I'd also
10 call Katherine Roome, Walter Long, III, Terry
11 Griffin, Lewis Grove. Thank you.

12 Samantha Peck?

13 MS. PECK: Thank you, Your Honors.
14 For the record, my name is spelled Samantha, S-A-M-A-
15 N-T-H-A, C-A-R-O-U-S-O, P-E-C-K.

16 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

17 MS. PECK: I am a Cornell University
18 educated Ph.D. Ornithologist, and tonight I'm
19 speaking on behalf of the Grassland Bird Trust. We,
20 the Grassland Bird Trust, support and recognize the
21 importance of renewable solar energy to address the
22 terrible crisis that is climate change. However, the
23 choice to build on hundreds of acres within the heart
24 of the Washington County important bird area will be
25 a disastrous one for the continued survival of the

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2 threatened species who live there.

3 Bird populations have decreased by two
4 point nine billion in the last fifty years, but
5 grassland birds are by far the most rapidly declining
6 group in the U.S. Their numbers have decreased by
7 fifty percent in that time period. For example,
8 short-eared owls used to be the most numerous owls in
9 New York State. However, today, due to habitat loss,
10 it's estimated that only fifty breeding pairs of
11 short-eared owls exist in the state. And the
12 grasslands upon which this solar project is proposed
13 are among the very last available wintering habitat
14 for this species and the last breeding habitat for
15 many other grassland bird species.

16 The proposed solar project site is an
17 area of recognized critical ecological importance for
18 grassland birds. It's located in a D.E.C.-designated
19 grassland bird conservation center, an Audubon
20 Society designated important bird area, and a
21 National Heritage Program winter raptor conservation
22 center. It's identified as an area containing rare
23 plants and animals by the New York D.E.C., and it
24 surrounds a D.E.C. grassland wildlife management
25 area. Construction in the middle of a critical

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2 conservation center is normally strongly discouraged
3 by the state, as it directly contradicts longstanding
4 New York policy.

5 Solar field construction has been
6 demonstrated by multiple studies to have substantial
7 negative impacts on birds. Solar panels are actually
8 recommended to be built on grasslands that are
9 adjacent to airports specifically because studies
10 have shown that they reduce use of those grasslands
11 by large birds like raptors, which are hazardous to
12 aircraft. It's not simply that the proposed project
13 will impact a proposed one thousand eight hundred and
14 twenty-eight acres of critical habitat. It will also
15 impact all of the neighboring almost five hundred-
16 acre wildlife management area that the D.E.C.
17 manages, which it boxes in on three sides, preventing
18 further conservation area expansion and rendering the
19 managed area far less valuable for wildlife because
20 most grassland species require vast, unbroken,
21 unfragmented areas in order to breed and hunt.

22 We are not asking for this project to
23 be halted. We are not asking for it to be moved. But
24 the draft permit does not include a single site-
25 specific condition addressing the major unique damage

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2 this project is going to propose to grassland birds.
3 We are merely asking that Boralex permanently
4 conserve an amount of grassland habitat equal to that
5 which they are going to be blanketing in solar
6 panels, five hundred and twenty-seven acres. Any
7 less than that does not provide a net conservation
8 benefit as intended.

9 Recently proposed state's legislation
10 recommends that in a bird conservation center, such
11 as this one, three acres of grassland should be
12 conserved per acre taken. Effective mitigation
13 ensures the value of what is being provided is equal
14 to or exceeds the value of what is being taken, which
15 in this case is critical habitat. So we simply
16 request that mitigation acreage be increased in order
17 to give these animals, which are our unique and
18 declining natural heritage, somewhere to go in the
19 future as their habitat continues to be destroyed.
20 Thank you very much, Your Honors.

21 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
22 Ms. Roome?

23 MS. ROOME: My name is Catherine
24 Roome. That's K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E, R-O-O-M-E. I am on
25 the board of the Grassland Bird Trust, and you've

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2 just heard about the unique nature of the grasslands
3 that lie just outside of this building. And as you
4 know, and as you've stated, the solar -- the solar
5 facility will cover over five hundred acres of
6 critical grassland with solar panels. In addition,
7 the five hundred acres of solar panels will -- will
8 be surrounded by thirteen hundred more acres of
9 roads, collector systems, and temporary equipment
10 laydowns. Some of that is permanent, some of that is
11 temporary.

12 To make up for the damage this will
13 cause the grassland birds, Boralex submitted a plan
14 describing how they will mitigate the damage that
15 will be caused to the birds. The Boralex plan was to
16 buy land right across the road from here from a Mr.
17 Mark Faille, and to conserve two hundred acres of Mr.
18 Faille's land to meet the minimum mitigation required
19 under the regulations. That's the minimum, it's
20 about two hundred and eighteen acres. However, Mr.
21 Faille's land is under a conservation easement that
22 is held by the Agricultural Stewardship Association,
23 and many of you in this room are probably familiar
24 with the Agricultural Stewardship Association.

25 Yesterday, the Agricultural

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2 Stewardship Association advised ORES that using the
3 Faille land violates the conservation easements that
4 A.S.A. holds on the land. So, as of yesterday, the
5 plan is effectively meaningless because the
6 mitigation land cannot -- that they had proposed --
7 that Boralex had proposed to use, cannot be used.

8 As my colleague said, the Grassland
9 Bird Trust is not trying to stop this project. We
10 are pretty much a lot of environmentalists in this
11 room, we believe in renewables.

12 MR. DUDLY: I'm hard of hearing.

13 MS. ROOME: I'm sorry? Oh. But the
14 fact that the plan is now meaningless raises a major
15 issue. The Grassland Bird Trust will be filing an
16 issue statement, which is like a brief, requesting
17 party status. We are not seeking a hearing. We just
18 want a seat at the table to help develop a new plan
19 to mitigate the damage that the project will cause to
20 the grasslands. To do that, we are requesting a
21 settlement administrative law judge to be appointed
22 so that the Grassland Bird Trust can be at the table
23 to help write a new mitigation plan. Therefore, we
24 are respectfully seeking a site-specific permit
25 condition to address the unique conditions here.

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2 Otherwise, ORES and Boralex will be the only ones in
3 the room writing the new plan, and G.B.T.'s expertise
4 and experience will be no part of the record and no
5 part of the plan.

6 The Grassland Bird Trust has been
7 working for fifteen years to protect these grasslands
8 -- grasslands outside of this building. These are
9 one of the largest grasslands still remaining in New
10 York State. If these grasslands are not adequately
11 protected, grassland birds will disappear from these
12 grasslands within a few decades. They will no longer
13 be in New York State. All of us, ORES, Boralex, the
14 Grassland Bird Trust, and most of all, these
15 beautiful birds will be best served if the Grassland
16 Bird Trust is allowed to provide input on the new
17 plan. Thank you very much.

18 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
19 Walter Long?

20 MR. LONG: Hello. Walter Long, III,
21 W-A-L-T-E-R, L-O-N-G, Roman numeral three.

22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

23 MR. LONG: I am a local farmer. Part
24 of this stuff is on my land. This is going to infect
25 -- or affect my retirement.

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2 I'm also a hunter and a sportsman and
3 everything. I've lived out here for thirty years.
4 I've seen farms go away, and now they're big bird
5 trust areas. And all these bird trust areas, they
6 don't do nothing. They don't pay property taxes and
7 put into the thing. And the property taxes that
8 they're not paying, has caused my property taxes to
9 go sky high.

10 And also, everywhere you look, your
11 electronic use is getting higher and higher and more
12 and more. Everybody wants you to have all electric
13 houses. Everybody wants to have all electric cars.
14 You got computers. You got cell phones. You got
15 T.V.s. And all you women around here that got fancy
16 hairdos and everything, you like to blow dry that
17 hair, don't you? That takes electricity too.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER TWO: You're
19 the best. I like that one.

20 MR. LONG: So next time you want to
21 think about raising a fuss by some bird who's still
22 got lots and lots of land, because they live all over
23 the place. Think about that. Because if you put a
24 squash on this right here, you might not have any
25 electricity to run all them things you like so much.

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2 Thank you very much.

3 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
4 Terry Griffin?

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER TWO: That
6 was good, buddy.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Hi. Terry Griffin, T-E-
8 R-R-Y, G-R-I-F-F-I-N.

9 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: And I'm also with the
11 Grassland Bird Trust, I'm on the -- on the board
12 also. We -- I think you know that we own seventy-
13 eight acres not far from here, and we do pay taxes on
14 that land. I also want to just point out that I am
15 personally a very strong supporter of renewable
16 energy. I know that we need it, and it's very
17 important to -- to all of us to have that and have
18 plans in place for that. However, as my colleagues
19 have stated, the problem with this project is really
20 that it is in the heart of the Fort Edward grassland
21 important bird area and is taking significant
22 critical habitat from the grassland birds, threatened
23 and endangered grassland birds.

24 The solution is very simple. Conserve
25 as much land as is being taken from the birds.

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2 Permanently conserve as much land, which is about
3 five hundred and sixty-seven acres. Permanently
4 conserve that for the grassland birds. Thank you.

5 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
6 Lewis Grove?

7 MR. GROVE: Thank you, Your Honors.
8 I'm Lewis Grove. That's L-E-W-I-S, G-R-O-V-E. I am
9 the Director of Wind and Energy Policy at the
10 American Bird Conservancy. A.B.C. is about thirty
11 years old, and we conserve bird habitats across the
12 Western Hemisphere throughout the Americas. We have
13 members throughout the state of New York who recreate
14 on these grasslands and care about the birds that
15 thrive there already.

16 Our energy program is about twenty
17 years old. Historically, we focus on wind energy
18 projects and conflicts with -- with raptors and other
19 things. Solar is not something we generally get
20 involved in. There's -- there's about seven or eight
21 thousand solar projects in America utility scale. As
22 far as I can tell, A.B.C., we've only ever been
23 involved in a few ever. That's how important this --
24 the issue is here, the birds that are threatened in
25 this spot.

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2 You've heard a good summary of that
3 from the folks at the Grassland Bird Trust. I won't
4 rehash the statistics around -- around the birds, but
5 this is just an incredibly fragile and important
6 location for these birds. You know, I.B.A.s cover
7 about point five percent of New York State, these
8 important bird areas that are recognized. Impacting
9 them with solar energy is -- is just an unnecessary
10 arrangement. You know, we think that solar energy is
11 a tremendously important part of a wildlife and
12 biodiversity friendly future. We applaud New York
13 State for their kind of leadership and blazing a
14 pathway to balance renewable energy, rapidly building
15 out with biodiversity conservation. But we are --
16 we're concerned that this is going to be an example
17 of a bad project. We don't want to look back in a
18 number of years and see this as an exemplar of a --
19 the kind of solar project we don't want to have. So,
20 you know, the failure here, owls disappearing from
21 this spot, would be -- would be a failure of that
22 process as we see it.

23 So our ask is really pretty simple.
24 It's right along lines with the -- with the Grassland
25 Bird Trust. We think that any mitigation for the

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2 birds here should include both the local experts that
3 have been working on these places for so long and
4 know them so well, and also should be equivalent to
5 the acreage that is being affected by the panels.
6 It's just that precious an area and if these birds go
7 away, they're -- they're not going to come back as --
8 as Doug -- as Kathy said. So thank you so much.

9 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
10 Okay. I'll call the next five speakers, please, to
11 come up to the front row. Ron Renoni.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER ONE: Ma'am,
13 is there any chance you -- I -- I can't hear that
14 good. Could you turn the volume up in the audience?

15 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, I can.
16 Yes, I will do that, sir. No problem.

17 MR. DUDLY: Please. That's why --

18 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: John
19 DeGregory?

20 MR. DUDLY: That's why I sat close,
21 but I can't understand.

22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: No problem,
23 sir.

24 MR. DUDLY: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: I have a

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2 first name written down, Tonya. Jane Woods.

3 MS. WOODS: Is that June Woods?

4 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, excuse
5 me. June D. Woods.

6 MS. WOODS: Yes.

7 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Barbara
8 Trypaluk? Thank you.

9 Ron Renoni?

10 MR. RENONI: Hi. Ron Renoni, R-O-N,
11 and then R-E-N-O-N-I. And I'm the stewardship
12 committee chairperson for the Grassland Bird Trust
13 and have a wildlife biology background and science
14 teaching background in biology. And I've worked in
15 the grasslands for twelve years, working with the
16 D.E.C. doing wildlife surveys for winter raptor
17 birds. And I've had a lot of experience watching the
18 winter habitat here and summer habitat since we
19 maintained property here in the grasslands.

20 I'd also like to thank the landowners
21 that are here and the landowners that have worked
22 with us and were landowners that have worked with
23 Boralex to build, you know, not only the project, but
24 build the conservation because a lot of these
25 landowners have been approached for the conservation

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2 aspect that the project will be spread to not only
3 where the panels are, but where the conservation
4 mitigation acres will be. So again, I applaud the
5 landowners for being willing to work with Boralex or
6 the conservancy to, I mean, the land trust to do
7 that.

8 In 2018, we were invited by Boralex to
9 work with them and give them an opinion about where
10 the siting of the panel should be based on our
11 experience where the best habitat was. And so I was
12 at those meetings. I've been at many of the meetings
13 with Boralex and different staff of the Boralex
14 people, and they've been very forthright in sharing
15 maps with us and sharing information with us. And
16 it's been a very interesting and educational
17 relationship to work with this big energy company
18 that's not international.

19 And what those meetings were about was
20 actually going over the maps and showing them the
21 exact habitat we -- we felt had the most valuable
22 bird habitat in the I.B.A. itself, identified as the
23 important bare area, and especially the areas around
24 the D.E.C. wildlife management areas, which are just
25 down the road here on Black House Road and -- and

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2 Plum Road. And then what surprised us is that when
3 they published the maps of where the panels would be,
4 they put them right in those critical areas. And so,
5 we kind of did a double take and, again, emphasized
6 commenting, because I did the maps, commenting on the
7 maps, circling the areas, saying, please move the
8 panels from these areas because this is the area
9 that's the most critical spot.

10 You've got, you know, fragmented area,
11 which is really hard on survival of a lot of the
12 species, but land that's adjacent to the wildlife
13 management areas provide the best habitat because the
14 wildlife management areas already have habitat and
15 the birds they know research-wise do better when they
16 have more habitat that they can access at once.
17 Right down here on Cary Road, which is a phenomenal,
18 beautiful, you know, farms and they back up to the
19 back end of the wildlife management areas, and that's
20 where big sections of the panels will be, right on
21 the back edge of the wildlife management areas. And
22 that Cary Road area will be just much different with
23 all the panels on them.

24 So the other point that -- and many of
25 my colleagues have made, the other point we've had is

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2 since the ORES regulations for management versus
3 Article Ten and the three acres for breeding habitat,
4 now ORES regulations is point four acres for
5 mitigation. We've encouraged Boralex over and over
6 and over again to go way beyond the minimum since
7 you're in this critical bird area. And again, that
8 would involve more landowners and -- and farms that
9 are willing to have their land be conservation value
10 land, which we find is a fantastic -- a fantastic --
11 sorry.

12 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

13 MR. RENONI: All right. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you
15 for your comment. You can submit any additional
16 comments in writing, and thank you.

17 John DeGregory?

18 MR. DEGREGORY: John DeGregory, J-O-H-
19 N, D-E-G-R-E-G-O-R-Y.

20 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

21 MR. DEGREGORY: I -- I worked in the
22 Naval Nuclear Program for thirty-nine years. Nuclear
23 power is the safest energy that you could ever have,
24 other than everybody's scared of it, right? So this
25 energy, the renewable energy, is a perfect

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2 alternative. I've heard people talk up here about
3 their concerns about the birds and, you know, just
4 the habitat. I understand that. I own a piece of
5 property that is included in this, so I support it.
6 But I also support some type of agreement or
7 compromise or discussion about some happy medium.

8 It doesn't have to be one way or the
9 other. It has to be something that is agreeable to
10 everybody, right? And it's concerning that we're
11 here at a turning point where it should be some kind
12 of done deal, that we just go forward with this
13 renewable energy, and we're still at this point where
14 we're discussing something that really is important
15 to everybody, right? But it's important to the
16 landowners as well. We pay taxes. National Grid
17 wants to just blow our energy up, right? And we have
18 an opportunity to support ourselves in Fort Edward
19 with -- with renewable energy that can support
20 everybody in the community. So everybody needs to
21 get on the same page, and let's get this done.

22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

23 Tonya?

24 MS. TOZZI: Hi. My name is Tonya
25 Tozzi. I'm a little short, sorry.

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2 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: If you could
3 spell your full name for the record, thank you.

4 MS. TOZZI: Yup. Tonya, T-O-N-Y-A, T-
5 O-Z-Z-I. I'm going to speak in favor of the solar
6 farm, I'm a landowner. This project, for one, allows
7 the farmers to keep the working part of their farm so
8 that they can continue to own and keep the farms and
9 their families for generations to come. It also
10 keeps a major portion of what we work as our farms,
11 so we can continue to keep it a farm. I don't know
12 if anybody has driven around Black House Road lately,
13 but there's houses, houses, houses, houses going in.
14 And that kind of, in my opinion, shuts down the
15 birds' habitat.

16 So I know everyone's asking for this
17 area to be conserved for birds, but if all the land
18 becomes housing, how is it going to be conserved for
19 anything? It's going to be houses. So I do believe
20 this keeps the farms farms for a longer period of
21 time, like thirty years, thirty-plus years.

22 Also, the project will provide bigger
23 tax revenue for the town of Fort Edward. The school,
24 last -- a couple years ago, was almost shut down
25 completely because it did not have enough revenue. A

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2 lot of people were fighting for that school to stay
3 open, and luckily it did. But we don't know for how
4 long that'll be able to stay open for the kids of
5 Fort Edward. So that will bring more tax -- much
6 bigger tax revenue from the solar project as well. So
7 that benefits our schools and our town.

8 The solar company, from what I gather,
9 has also allocated a large track, about two hundred
10 and seventy acres, towards the bird sanctuary. I
11 think you guys want more. But these are private
12 landowners, and I don't really believe that anybody
13 should be coming in and saying that a private
14 landowner should have to hand over property to
15 anyone. I mean, if anybody wants to dig in their
16 pockets and purchase the property, then we can all
17 dig and purchase. But I don't really see anybody
18 coming and knocking on our doors and saying, hey, we
19 want to purchase two, five hundred-and-something
20 acres of all y'all's land and turn it into a bird
21 sanctuary.

22 But we have Boralex, who is going to
23 help us keep these farms farms and help these people
24 who have probably been here for generations continue
25 to farm their properties. And so I think that that's

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2 all I really have to say. I'd like to be able to
3 continue to be a farmer. I have raised bees. They
4 agreed to like help plant pollinating stuff for the
5 bees to help it continue to support that. And I
6 think they're very workable, and they want to work
7 with the community. So that's all I have to say.
8 Thank you.

9 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
10 June D. Woods?

11 MS. WOODS: When I filled out the
12 application, I didn't realize I was going to be a
13 speaker, but as long as I'm here.

14 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, please
15 feel free to speak.

16 MS. WOODS: I'm June Woods, J-U-N-E,
17 W-O-O-D-S. I'm a retired operating nurse out of
18 Glens Falls Hospital. I live in Glens Falls, so I
19 don't have any real personal stake here, except that
20 I do think conservation is important. I also know
21 that this company is Canadian, and I don't think that
22 America right now is really on good terms with Canada
23 in general. So I don't want to alienate the company
24 that's also -- because I'm also in support of
25 alternative energy sources. I am very much in

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2 support of that. I just want to make sure that
3 everybody knows that people outside this area are
4 also looking at this thing, and want very much for a
5 good outcome for everybody concerned. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
7 Barbara Trypaluk?

8 MS. TRYPALUK: Good evening. My name
9 is spelled B-A-R-B-A-R-A, Trypaluk is T-R-Y-P-A-L-U-
10 K.

11 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

12 MS. TRYPALUK: I live in Saratoga
13 Springs. And I came out tonight because I'm
14 concerned about the Boralex solar farm planned for
15 prime grassland habit -- grassland bird habitat. Me
16 and my family love observing the short-eared owls and
17 the occasional snowy owls and northern harriers that
18 call this area home in most of the -- most of the
19 seasons of the year. It's a magical place when the
20 birds start rocketing above the open areas. It's my
21 hope that Boralex will set aside twice as much
22 property as they have promised to.

23 Some of these birds, especially the
24 short-eared owls, are in steep decline in our state
25 and in other states as well. Without conservation,

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2 these birds will not be returning to this area. And
3 that will be a tragedy. They are beautiful and they
4 were long -- they were here long before homo sapiens
5 appeared on the scene. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
7 Our next five speakers are Gretchen Steen, Tom Ellis,
8 Joseph Wagner, Arakal Cassella and Dudley.

9 Dudley, sir, you can come up and have a
10 seat. Come on up. Would you like to speak? You can
11 come take a seat right --

12 MR. DUDLY: Over there?

13 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes.

14 MR. DUDLY: Can I ask a question? Who
15 are you?

16 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: He's one of
17 the administrative law judges. But Dudley --

18 MR. DUDLY: He looks important.

19 A.L.J. Favreau: Thank you.

20 MR. DUDLY: I'll sit right here.

21 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: He
22 appreciates that.

23 MR. DUDLY: He looks like somebody
24 that's important.

25 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Well, I'm

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2 going to call you, Dudley in a few moments --

3 MR. DUDLY: I'm a farmer.

4 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: -- to make
5 your statements. Just one moment, let me --

6 MR. DUDLY: Okay.

7 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Let me go
8 through the names here and I'll be calling you on a
9 moment, sir -- in a moment, sir. Gretchen Steen, let
10 me have you come up. Thank you.

11 MS. STEEN: Gretchen, G-R-E-T-C-H-E-N,
12 Steen, S-T-E-E-N.

13 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

14 MS. STEEN: Along with Tom Ellis, we
15 own at the top of the Cary Road and County Route 46,
16 five hundred acres. Taxes keep going up on five
17 hundred acres, and I am totally in support of this
18 project. I also understand the bird -- the Grassland
19 Bird Trust. I'm a member of the Grassland Bird
20 Trust. I support them. And I would definitely
21 support an equal amount of land being designated for
22 that.

23 But again, going back to the taxes,
24 we'd like to keep it as a farm. We'd like to be able
25 to have corn, hay. But in order to do that, we

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2 really struggle sometimes to pay the taxes. So we're
3 totally supporting this project by Boralex. Thank
4 you.

5 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

6 Mr. Ellis, would you like to come up?

7 MS. STEEN: Thank you.

8 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: If you could
9 state and spell your name, please.

10 MR. ELLIS: Tom, T-O-M, E-L-L-I-S.

11 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

12 And that's E-L-L-I-S?

13 MR. ELLIS: Right.

14 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

15 You can begin.

16 MR. DUDLY: Would you lift the
17 microphone, please?

18 MR. ELLIS: I'm a seventh generation
19 owner of the farm, but I highly approved of it. So
20 I'm go -- I'm ready to go over to the solar panels to
21 keep the rest of the farm intact. That's it.

22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you,
23 Mr. Ellis.

24 Joseph Wagner?

25 MR. WAGNER: Good evening. Joseph

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2 Wagner, J-O-S-E-P-H, W-A-G-N-E-R. I'm from Glens
3 Falls. I don't have any skin in the game out here
4 except a very strong opinion about this. I've lived
5 around the country and I've watched them build solar
6 panels and I've watched the birds and the wildlife
7 just gradually disappear. We need solar panels.
8 That man that talked about nuclear, I'm in agreement
9 with you. Have been for like since the eight --
10 seventies.

11 But Boralex needs to set aside,
12 whether they purchase it or not or whether they get
13 it, other land and put -- and possibly put the panels
14 there because this -- as you lose your birds, you
15 lose your wildlife. And I think the world bird
16 population is down ninety percent in the past hundred
17 years. That's a bellwether. We're in seriously bad
18 trouble. The planet is dying. And this is a science
19 fiction movie and we're living in it. It really is.

20 The other thing that's slightly left
21 field, but that's generally how I operate. Who's
22 holding up the permitting of all the solar panels
23 that could be going on all these closed dumps? Good
24 God, there's thousands and thousands of acres. I
25 mean, I drive by them all the time and I go -- I ride

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2 my bicycle down to five combines and look at these
3 mountains and I realized they're unused. And for
4 God's sakes, the very least they could do is not cut
5 the lawn constantly and let the birds live there,
6 which would help supplement what's going on here.

7 I'm pro solar, but -- and -- and
8 conserve and all that other stuff is great, but
9 people, it just doesn't apply because people keep
10 using more and more and more. We need solar, but we
11 don't need it right there. I wish this project went
12 back to the drawing board. And you've got scientists
13 and engineers and highly educated people in the
14 Grassland Bird Trust. They've offered their help.
15 They should be used. That's what I have to say. I'm
16 sorry this is happening.

17 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
18 Dudly --

19 MR. DUDLY: -- I don't know where to
20 start. I only got three minutes. Could you hear me
21 now?

22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes.

23 MR. DUDLY: Everybody -- probably half
24 the people know me. I've lived here all my life. I
25 live on St. James Road. I know half the people, a

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2 lot of people, I don't know, but I have a solar farm
3 behind my house. They say it's an eyesore. I wake up
4 every day. I have looked over it and all that looks
5 like is a building with no sides. There's no glare.
6 And I know it's putting energy into our power lines.
7 And the deer population is still there. The turkeys
8 are there. The bunny rabbits are there. The birds
9 are there. There's no harmful, you know, but it's --
10 just remember back in the cowboys and Indians, they
11 started out with a telegraph and people, whoa, now we
12 got wires coming up and they got electricity and no
13 telephone, you know, they made telephones. It's --
14 everything's in the progress of energy.

15 Years ago, everybody had a house with
16 only a couple of fuse boxes. Now you got a panel
17 with two hundred and fifty amps, washer, dryers and
18 all that. How many people have a cell phone? I
19 don't have a land phone no more. I went to
20 technology. If somebody blasts all the satellites
21 out, I ain't got a land phone no more. So solar, I
22 have -- and it's right be -- I live next to the bird
23 watchers on St. James Road.

24 So I have no idea what -- what's wrong
25 with the future. I'll be dead. I'm seventy-one years

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2 old. But the future, just look what they did in the
3 cowboys and Indians. Then we came up with the last
4 end of, what, a hundred years? Technology, it's only
5 getting bigger and bigger. I don't know what the
6 future is going to be, but it's off the sun. So,
7 okay, guys.

8 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
9 Thank you for your comment.

10 Arakal Cassella?

11 MS. CASSELLA: Hi, I'm Arakal
12 Cassella, A-R-A-K-A-L, C-A-S-S-E-L-L-A. I'm a
13 naturalist out of Glens Falls, obviously a birder. I
14 am -- I'm -- I'm just going to read this. This
15 project only aims to protect the bare minimum
16 required amount of land. If your kids came home or
17 your partner came home after a day of doing the bare
18 minimum, I think you'd be a little disappointed
19 knowing that they could do better.

20 All of these actions have reactions.
21 They've been proven. They're trickle down effects.
22 You know, we see pollinator collapse. We're dealing
23 with all of that already. And this -- this is just
24 another part of that. We shouldn't have to
25 experience it firsthand to know that somebody could

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2 have done more than the bare minimum. And, you know,
3 I hear landowners saying like, oh, well, if they want
4 to buy the land, buy the land. Cool, let Boralex buy
5 the land. Add it to the refuge that, you know, we --
6 we need. Solar is great. Solar has a nutrition rate.
7 It needs to be replaced more than a lot of people
8 realize. And I mean, that's going to have an impact
9 as well. It's not as high yield as a lot of people
10 think. And where is that energy going? Is that
11 getting to stay all local?

12 I mean, a harrier can't swoop through
13 a solar panel to catch a vole. Like, yes, there are
14 going to be birds still. Turkeys aren't hunting from
15 the sky. And I just, like, I'm pro solar. I -- I'm
16 not pro this area. And at bare minimum, I just want
17 more than bare minimum to protect these species. And
18 I just -- I just don't think that -- people need to
19 stop seeing grasslands as just barren lands waiting
20 for human intrusion. That's all.

21 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

22 Tenly Ruket? Tenly Ruket?

23 MS. RUKET: I'm up?

24 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Yes, you
25 are. Thank you. You can go right up to the podium.

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2 MS. RUKET: Perfect. Hello, my name
3 is Tenly Ruket, T-E-N-L-Y, Ruket, R-U-K-E-T. And I
4 live in Fort Edward. I'm a homeowner and part of
5 this project, which I'm absolutely for the solar
6 project. My grandparents actually came over here
7 from England thinking the streets were paved with
8 gold. They acquired the property. And ever since
9 then, it's been private property. So it's only for
10 us to view the animals and every -- the deer and
11 everything that come across our property, but
12 nobody's there to look at the birds. And to Tanya's
13 point, if it is our private property, then no one's
14 going to be there looking at the birds as well. And
15 I wouldn't go to somebody else's house to go onto
16 their property to look at birds.

17 I have driven often past St. James
18 Road, and there is that bird grasslands over there.
19 I have stopped frequently. I haven't seen any birds
20 out there. I have seen it used a lot as like a park
21 and drive. So vehicles are parked and left there,
22 and there's nobody out there looking at the birds.
23 They must have taken off another vehicle. But I
24 don't see many people out there often, on St. James
25 Road. So like I said, I'm totally for the solar, and

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2 thank you for my comments.

3 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

4 I do not have any additional speaker cards. I'd like
5 to give anyone else in the room the opportunity to
6 speak this evening, who hasn't already indicated
7 they'd like to speak. Come on up. Please state and
8 spell your name for the record.

9 MS. PARILLO: My name is Cynthia
10 Parillo. C-Y-N-T-H-I-A, P-A-R-I-L-L-O.

11 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

12 MS. PARILLO: I just want everyone in
13 the room to know I am not affiliated with Boralex.
14 I'm not affiliated with Grassland Bird Trust, or
15 Betterbee, or any of the other speakers in this room.
16 I'm here because I'm a farmer. And I am from
17 Rensselaer County, an additional county in New York
18 State. I am so gratified to find an entire room of
19 farmers and others who are so in support of solar
20 projects. This is very rewarding to me because in my
21 little neck of the woods, there's a lot of opposition
22 to the solar going in. And so I'm really gratified
23 that this is happening.

24 Except for the reason that we're here.
25 And that is, is that this area was designated an

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2 important bird area and protected by DEC long before
3 Boralex had interest in it. And they were aware of
4 the situation when they began the project. And that
5 over the time that they've been planning it, and I
6 wish them all the success, absolutely, they have not
7 paid attention to this very particular situation.
8 And I think that it's really time that they recognize
9 that this is a situation that requires that attention
10 that they have not paid to it.

11 I'm very proud to be a New Yorker.
12 I'm proud to pay the taxes that I pay on my hundred
13 and fifty acres.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER ONE: Good
15 girl.

16 MS. PARILLO: And we'll see how the
17 future shakes out for all of this. I'm encouraged by
18 this level of community involvement in America. It's
19 a very good thing. But I hope that Boralex
20 reconsiders their position in this project as they
21 move forward. Thank you.

22 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Ms. Parillo,
23 thank you. If you could fill out a speaker card up
24 front.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER ONE: Good

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2 girl. That was nice. I -- I really --

3 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: If you could
4 state and spell your name for the record.

5 MS. MORRIS: Yes, it's Adrienne
6 Morris. And it's spelled, A-D-R-I-E-N-N-E. Morris
7 is M-O-R-R-I-S. I have to just say, like, I really
8 do appreciate all the farmers and their plight,
9 really, because with the taxes of New York, you know,
10 and that sort of thing. But I'm a little nervous.
11 But anyway.

12 MR. DUDLY: Could you lift the
13 microphone up?

14 MS. MORRIS: Yes. While I do
15 appreciate --

16 MR. DUDLY: Ah, now I can hear you.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. MORRIS: -- the plight of farmers
19 and the state of the taxes, I also just want people
20 to notice what even just happened in this meeting,
21 which was that Boralex comes in as supposedly a good
22 faith player and talks to all the bird people and,
23 you know, promises them the world. And in the end,
24 they weren't listening.

25 And I think we have to remember this

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2 area's history of large corporations with no
3 accountability that get subsidies from the government
4 and they're making tons of money off of this stuff.
5 And they're telling farmers, oh, I'm going to help
6 you with your bee population and I'm going to help
7 you with this and I'm going to plant some little
8 plants for you. And in ten to fifteen years, when
9 all the private equity companies move on to something
10 else, these companies will be bankrupt. Our place
11 will look like garbage. And your legacy as farmers
12 will be destroyed, because the future generations
13 will come and we'll see what these things are.
14 They're not solar farms.

15 They're solar factories. And if you
16 had any other kind of factory coming into this area,
17 I don't know if you'd like it so much, especially
18 because they won't be accountable. So it's, you
19 know, everyone is kind of fighting about the birds.
20 And I love birds, too. It's -- it's -- it's about
21 being scammed by green energy that isn't really
22 green. They say green and they say farms to make us
23 all feel good about land grabs. And our government,
24 the reason why the taxes are going up is because our
25 governments are corrupt and they're giving all this

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2 money to these solar farms.

3 So just -- everyone just be very
4 careful and realize that you -- all the promises
5 might not come true for you. And you'll be -- you'll
6 be left with this -- this technology on your property
7 that your future generations won't be able to sell.
8 They won't be able to -- because we'll -- because
9 who's taking all those solar panels off the property?
10 So just be very careful.

11 MR. DUDLY: You're right.

12 MS. MORRIS: So that's all I have.

13 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
14 Thank you for your comment. Before we close out and
15 conclude the hearing this evening, I'd just like to
16 look around the room and make sure I didn't miss
17 anyone. Come on up.

18 And Ms. Morris, if you could fill out
19 a speaker card, please, if you haven't already done
20 so. And our next speaker, if you could state and
21 spell your name, please.

22 MS. FASULO: Yeah, my name's Alex
23 Fasulo, spelled A-L-E-X, and then Fasulo, F-A-S-U-L-
24 O. I'd like to start off by speaking to the
25 landowners here. Same thing as what Adrienne said.

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2 I have massive respect for farmers. I'm a new
3 farmer. There's not a lot of us. I just decided to
4 become one at thirty-one years old. You don't hear
5 that happening a lot. And I own land in
6 Schuylerville, so I'm not a resident of Fort Edward.
7 But this concerns me as a young person.

8 So I want to speak to the farmers
9 first about -- I understand the raised taxes, how
10 expensive the state is. The state is a very
11 difficult state. You can sell your land. You can
12 sell the developmental rights of your land to an
13 agricultural or conservation easement. They will pay
14 you cash for the value of your land, and you will
15 still be in ownership of it. So instead of taking
16 the check from Boralex, instead of taking the check
17 from a corporation out of Quebec that should be
18 developing the land up in Canada -- I looked it up
19 today. There's a hundred and forty-three million
20 acres of land in Canada that could be used for these
21 solar farms. So you have to ask yourself, why are
22 they in New York State? What goodies are they
23 getting here?

24 But that money that you need to keep
25 your farm in operation, I understand, farms -- we are

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2 losing farms every day. We're losing two thousand
3 farms a day in our country right now. It's a dire
4 situation. We have a food autonomy crisis looming on
5 the horizon if we keep giving over our land like this
6 to these corporations. And that is what Boralex is,
7 it's a corporation. They want to try and say, yeah,
8 it's green energy. They want to try and make it
9 sound all good. It's a corporation. They are coming
10 in and pillaging our land. They are taking your land
11 from you. You're not going to get it back.

12 Now, I have people who have told me,
13 since these panels cannot be recycled, they abandon
14 them a lot of times if that's not written into the
15 clause here. Now, in my town, the town of Saratoga,
16 we did just pass legislation that makes it incredibly
17 difficult for a company to come in and do this to the
18 environment. And I just want to say to everyone in
19 Fort Edward, you don't have to just sit here and take
20 it. We did something about it in the town of
21 Saratoga. The legislation was passed, and companies
22 are not allowed to come in and snatch up this much
23 acreage now, especially in an area with endangered
24 animals and grasslands, and do what they are about to
25 do to this town.

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2 So my final thing that I'm saying here
3 as a young person, for all of the people that are --
4 need to take this money, I understand, and a lot of
5 people have said, well, I'm seventy-one, I'm eighty,
6 it doesn't matter to me. Well, I'm thirty-two. And
7 the people after us, think of your kids and think of
8 your grandkids. Think of what you are doing to this
9 country, to this land, to the animals. Our
10 environment is dying. You have to spend one hour
11 outside right now to see the environment, and the
12 planet is dying. And think about what type of world
13 and community are you leaving the people after you.
14 There used to be something called integrity in this
15 country. The Amish still have it, and we don't. So
16 that's all I have to say about that. And you can get
17 the money you need by selling it for an easement.
18 You don't have to hand your land over to these
19 corporations.

20 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Ms. Fasulo,
21 thank you.

22 MR. DUDLY: Wow, beautiful.
23 Beautiful.

24 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: You can come
25 on up. We have another speaker, please. Ms. Fasulo,

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2 can you just fill out a speaker for, please, and
3 thank you. Please state and spell your name for the
4 record.

5 MS. MERGHART: Hi, I'm Lorraine
6 Merghart-Ballard, L-O, double R, A-I-N-E, M-E-R-G-H-
7 A-R-T. We'll just leave it at that.

8 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.

9 MS. MERGHART: So I figured I wasn't -
10 - didn't have any remarks planned, but since I came
11 up and have been listening and wanted to just make a
12 few points. So I am a supporter of solar energy. I
13 don't know if I'm a supporter of solar panels, simply
14 because I think we haven't really spoke about the
15 technology here. And from what they are doing in
16 other places, there are a lot of alternatives to
17 using good farmland that is maybe, you know, that
18 farmland versus you can put them on buildings, you
19 can put them on roofs, you can put them on dumps,
20 which is something that we did suggest to Boralex for
21 a different project. Saratoga is an example where in
22 Wilton, the panels are on the old dump. So that's an
23 alternative.

24 I also wanted to make the point that -
25 - someone made the point that there's no money

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2 involved when you put solar panels here and just use
3 it for grassland bird trust. Well, I think both
4 D.E.C. and some other organizations would argue with
5 that, because if you think about the tourism dollars,
6 the fees, the hunting that is involved, and how
7 important that is to New York State in terms of
8 permits and the amount of people that come here for
9 different -- whether it's turkey hunting, deer
10 hunting, pheasant hunting, that is an important
11 source of income. So if you start taking away the
12 land that is necessary for that type of activity,
13 then you lose money.

14 And what else did I want to say? I
15 think Ron Renoni was someone here that spoke earlier.
16 And I used to -- or I'm involved with Bat and Kill
17 Conservancy. And they used to have eagle watches
18 when I first started supporting them. And we don't
19 have eagle watches anymore. Why? Because the eagles
20 have come back, because they are -- they are
21 successful. And they're successful because D.D.T.
22 and people started for different reasons. But that's
23 a source of income or a source of tourism dollars
24 that people enjoy, the birds.

25 The other thing that I wanted to

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2 mention was -- what? Technology? The farmland. So
3 I think this is -- and somebody mentioned it, solar
4 farms. They're not solar farms. They are solar.
5 It's an industry. It's an industry that has been
6 mentioned that if we think about G.E. or we think
7 about the paper mills, and we are still dealing with
8 places that have been abandoned and that are not
9 paying taxes. And we can't even find out who owns
10 them. And I know there are bonds that are supposed
11 to be held for -- for this type of mitigation or when
12 they -- when they stop being productive.

13 But technology moves really quickly.
14 And batteries, we all have old panels. We have
15 batteries that are no longer useful using. And where
16 does that go? So that's not necessarily a great way
17 of -- a great source of solar or source of energy.

18 And finally, what else did I want?
19 Somebody mentioned that that energy is staying in
20 here. Well, it's being sold to National Grid.
21 There's not a point of use technology. So it's no
22 different than National Grid still controls it. And
23 it's, you know, Boralex is selling it to them. If
24 they were selling it directly to all of us, like
25 individually at a point of use, that would be a

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2 different situation. But I don't think that's
3 happening.

4 So I am in support of solar. I think
5 we have to think about the technology and how that is
6 changing. I do think at the very least, if this
7 project goes forward, they should totally provide.
8 And they will be buying the land from the neighbors
9 that say they're not going to take anybody's private
10 land, whether it's Boralex or a conservation
11 organization. And it should be at least as much, if
12 not more, than the impact that they are doing. So
13 that's all I have to say.

14 A.L.J. MACKILLOP-SOLLER: Thank you.
15 Is there anyone else who would like to make a comment
16 who hasn't had the opportunity to do so? Okay. That
17 completes the hearing for this evening. There are no
18 other comments. I'd like the record to reflect that
19 the hearing is concluded. I'll note the time as
20 seven O five p.m. And I'd like to remind everyone in
21 the room, you have until five p.m. on October 3rd to
22 submit your written comments. Thank you very much.
23 We're off the record.

24 (The hearing concluded at 7:05 p.m.)
25

1 9/30/2025 - Fort Edward Solar, LLC - 23-03023
2 STATE OF NEW YORK
3 I, DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the time
5 and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1
6 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten transcription,
7 consisting of pages number 1 to 49, inclusive, is a true
8 record 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 2nd day of October, 2025.

12

13 DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, Reporter

14

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