

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

4 OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING

5 AND

6 ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION

7 (ORES)

8 PERMIT APPLICATION # 23-02972 - Application of

9 ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC for a Major

10 Renewable Energy Facility Siting Permit, Pursuant

11 to Article VIII of the New York State Public

12 Service Law to Develop, Design, Construct,

13 Operate, Maintain and Decommission a 250-Megawatt

14 (MW) Solar Energy Facility, Located in the town of

15 Glen, Montgomery County.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

17 DATE: May 28, 2025 at 6:02 p.m.

18 LOCATION: 112 Old Johnstown Road

19 Fonda, New York

20 BEFORE: A.L.J. DAWN MACKILLOP-SOLLER

21 A.L.J. HENRY JAMES JOSEPH

22
23 Reported by Danielle Christian
24
25

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 (The hearing commenced at 6:02 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Evening, ladies and

4 gentlemen. We are on the record. Today is May 28th,

5 2025. The time is now six O two p.m. This is D.M.M.

6 matter number two three dash zero two nine seven two

7 in the matter of the application of ConnectGen

8 Montgomery County L.L.C. for a major renewable energy

9 facility siting permit pursuant to Article Eight of

10 the New York State Public Service Law to develop,

11 design, construct, operate, maintain and decommission

12 a two hundred and fifty megawatt solar energy

13 facility located in the Town of Glen, Montgomery

14 County.

15 Good evening, everyone and welcome.

16 My name is Henry James Joseph. I am an

17 Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Public

18 Service, Office of Hearings assigned to this ORES

19 matter. On my left is Administrative Law Judge Dawn

20 MacKillop-Soller, also assigned to this matter. And

21 on my right, Zeryai Hagos, the director of the Office

22 of Renewable Energy Siting and electric transmission.

23 And on his right, the Court Reporter who is taking

24 down your statement today so that it will become part

25 of the record.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 I'm responsible to provide for --

3 excuse me. I am responsible for presiding over this
4 public comment hearing to receive your comments about
5 an application by ConnectGen Montgomery County L.L.C.
6 for a siting permit to construct and operate a two
7 hundred and fifty megawatt solar photo --
8 photovoltaic energy generating facility known as Mill
9 Point One and the draft permit conditions or as staff
10 issued on March 28th, 2025.

11 Included in the draft permit are
12 standards and conditions for the siting, design,
13 construction and operation of the proposed facility.
14 As I said with us tonight, we are honored to have the
15 Executive Director of the Office of Renewable Energy
16 Siting and Electric Transmission, Zeryai Hagos. Mr.
17 Hagos?

18 MR. HAGOS: Thank you, Judge, for that
19 introduction and most importantly for convening this
20 very important public comment hearing. As the
21 Executive Director of the Office for Renewable Energy
22 Siting and Electric Transmission or ORES as I'll
23 refer to -- refer to, I oversee the office
24 responsible for the environmental review and siting
25 of major electric transmission facilities and major

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 renewable energy facilities like the one we're all
3 here to discuss today.

4 This public comment hearing is an
5 important part of the process, and it helps the
6 office better understand the issues that are
7 important to the community and to the stakeholders of
8 the project. I'm here to listen only tonight and
9 hear directly from you.

10 If, like me, you're also here just to
11 listen, I will also point out that you can submit
12 written comments to the office in addition to making
13 a verbal comment tonight, and Judge Joseph will
14 provide more details about how you can submit written
15 comments in a few moments.

16 On behalf of the ORES staff, I want to
17 thank you for taking the time out of your evenings to
18 participate in this public comment hearing tonight,
19 and I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

20 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. Thank you, sir.
21 Folks, I just have a couple other words of
22 introduction. Bear with me, please. This hearing
23 was scheduled in a public notice issued on March
24 28th, 2025, advising all affected by the facility of
25 the opportunity to voice concerns, opinions, and

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 suggestions on the application and draft permit
3 conditions as part of the ORES process.

4 This notice was posted on the project
5 website, served on the party list and all persons
6 required to receive copies and was published in the
7 Amsterdam Recorder, The Leader Herald in Gloversville
8 and the Daily Gazette in Schenectady on May 6th,
9 2025, and the Busy Beaver of New York and Canada on
10 April 11th, 2025.

11 As part of the application process,
12 the permit applicant is required to provide extensive
13 information about the proposed facility which the
14 Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric
15 Transmission reviews thoroughly, including the
16 project's location, size and design, and importantly,
17 its potential environmental, economic and social
18 impacts on the community, including its agricultural
19 and wetlands and water resources, geology and
20 wildlife. Impacts to public health and safety, land
21 use, transportation and security issues are also
22 examined along with visual and noise impacts.

23 Equally important is a review of the
24 project's compliance with the Town of Glen and the
25 County of Montgomery's local laws and regulations and

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 any related waiver applications. This hearing
3 provides a platform for you to offer your views on
4 these issues. Your feedback helps shape ORES' final
5 decision on the application.

6 At the registration table is a fact
7 sheet. That sheet contains the website information
8 you need to review copies of the application and
9 draft permit conditions and the email address for the
10 hearings office. Excuse me.

11 The case name and number are found on
12 the fact sheet and are important if you want
13 additional information about the project. On that
14 fact sheet, you will also find the web address for
15 posting comments and a regular mailing address for
16 mailing them. Always refer to the project name and
17 case number when submitting comments. Comments must
18 be submitted electronically or postmarked by five
19 p.m. on Friday, May 30th, 2025.

20 This hearing is not a question and
21 answer session. If you have questions, please see
22 ORES staff when the hearing ends. This is your --
23 this is your opportunity to make comments which will
24 be reviewed by ORES in considering this project's
25 application and the draft permit conditions and which

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 will become part of the official record of this
3 matter.

4 Please note that your comments should
5 be about this proposed project and should not be
6 about a different project or other topic. If you
7 wish to make an oral statement this evening and have
8 not already filled out a registration card like this
9 one, please go to the registration table now and fill
10 that out.

11 I'll be calling on elected officials
12 and town officials first and then speakers in the
13 order in which I received your registration card. We
14 have many speakers tonight, and each will have a
15 three minute time limit. Your written comments can
16 be as long as you like.

17 Please be aware of your time limit
18 tonight. We're using this clock so you will know.
19 Again, you may submit as long of a comment as you
20 wish in writing. If you are submitting any studies
21 today, scientific studies or academic papers or
22 anything like that, that you have printed, please
23 make sure that you have a copy of your own. There is
24 a process for getting your materials back, but that
25 will not happen until after the permit application

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 review is complete.

3 When I call your name, approach the
4 microphone, get close to it, clearly state your name,
5 spell your last name, please. If you represent an
6 organization, identify it. Speak slowly. Speak
7 clearly. We need a good, clean recording so that the
8 Court Reporter can accurately capture your statement.

9 We have six seats down here in the
10 front. And so, in order to expedite the hearing and
11 minimize the amount of time that speakers are waiting
12 to give their statement, I'm going to ask the first
13 few of you to come down and have seats in the front
14 row, and I'll take that tape off myself. And as each
15 speaker is called, I will let the next one know to
16 come down, all right? And I am going to ask you to
17 hold off on any applause until the conclusion of the
18 hearing delays the people who are waiting to speak
19 and you'll have an opportunity at the end.

20 All right. So, I'm going to take that
21 off. Timothy Reilly, the Town of Glen Supervisor,
22 you'll be first, sir, if you could come down. And
23 Ms. Bakner, have seat in the front row, please. John
24 Thomas. Where is John Thomas? Mr. Thomas? Josh
25 Shaul? Mr. Shaul, thank you. Thomas Farrell. Mr.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 Farrell? All right. All right, folks. Our first
3 speaker is Mr. Reilly, the Supervisor of the Town of
4 Glen. Sir, please take the microphone.

5 MR. REILLY: Good evening, thank you.
6 I appreciate the opportunity to address this public
7 hearing. As you said -- as I said, my name is
8 Timothy Reilly. It's R-E-I-L-L-Y. For the record, I
9 live at 238 Dillenbeck Road, Fultonville, New York.
10 Many here this evening know me. I am Tim Reilly, the
11 Supervisor of the Town of Glen.

12 I hold this office because I've been
13 elected to represent everyone in the Town of Glenn
14 and to ensure that the Town is working for its
15 residents. That means working with the Town Board to
16 adopt local laws that protect the town and its
17 residents and working with the town highway
18 superintendent to make sure he has the resources to
19 plow and maintain roads that the Town owns.

20 Being Town Supervisor is a demanding
21 job, but one that happy -- that I am happy to do.
22 Several years ago, the town became the object of
23 attention from energy companies that have absolutely
24 no ties to this community. These large companies
25 view the Town and continue to view the Town as merely

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 a place to hold solar electric generating facilities
3 using panels and reap the investments from the sale
4 of energy into the state electric grid while
5 collecting federal and state tax exemptions and
6 incentives.

7 Without these gifts from the state and
8 federal government, funded by your tax dollars, I
9 might add, these inefficient, unsustainable large
10 projects would simply cease to exist. To my way of
11 thinking, these projects ceasing to exist would be a
12 good thing for the Town of Glen. In the years since
13 the energy companies have come to the Town, I have
14 learned many things.

15 Small rural towns with large
16 agricultural open land holdings, limited budgets like
17 the Town of Glen are the target of these energy
18 companies because in the context of New York State,
19 we have insufficient funds and other resources to
20 sustain a legitimate fight of these projects on a
21 level playing field.

22 The state has made it all but
23 impossible to prevent these projects from coming to
24 our town or any other because the New York State
25 legislature and the governor have given the Office of

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 renewal -- Renewable Energy Siting, ORES, the power
3 to overrule the Town of Glen's local laws, including
4 the solar law, the land use law to positively
5 encourage these energy companies to propose projects
6 whether or not they comply with our local laws.

7 Practically speaking, ORES hands out
8 waivers like hot cakes, not really requiring any sort
9 of meaningful showing of over burdensome. To
10 override laws that Glen put in place to protect its
11 community character, view sheds, and to screen
12 incompatible industrial uses from our hamlets, our
13 houses, our historic buildings and our agricultural
14 way of life, including all of the attributes that
15 make Glen attractive for tourism and residential
16 life.

17 The state and the governor have
18 ratcheted up the pressure on municipalities like Glen
19 over several years. They created ORES and empowered
20 it to steamroll these projects into existence. They
21 strengthened the power of ORES to more effectively
22 and less in -- with less due process rubber stamp
23 these projects. They have attempted time and again
24 to severely limit the ability of small towns like
25 Glen the -- to ass -- assess and tax these vast

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 industrial facilities.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Mr. Reilly, your time
4 has expired, sir.

5 MS. WHITEMAN: I would like to hear
6 him continue, sir, because he is our Supervisor.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I understand that and
8 that's why I -- I let him go past the expiration of
9 his time.

10 MS. WHITEMAN: Well, I think he's
11 almost done. Could you give him a few more minutes,
12 please?

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Are you almost done,
14 sir? Because you --

15 MR. REILLY: Yeah, I -- I am. Yes.

16 A.L.J. JOSEPH: -- can submit the
17 entire thing to the record.

18 MR. REILLY: I am almost finished. I
19 am.

20 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Let's give
21 you another couple seconds, sir.

22 MR. REILLY: In spite of these
23 overwhelming odds, the Town of Glen has participated
24 in this -- in -- in this proceeding from the
25 beginning and will to the end. At every step that

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 the town has met with the applicant, we have
3 explained that the Town does not want this project.
4 The -- the Town does not want to be the host of the
5 solar project which is all -- overwhelming visible
6 from every corner of the town.

7 The town does not want to spend years
8 waiting for vegetation to grow for the screening of
9 the view of these facilities from roadways and other
10 non-participating properties. The town is not happy
11 with this facility and it will be a visible blight on
12 the town for at least the next generation.

13 As well, I would also like to mention
14 that during the process of construction, that there
15 will be massive trucks and -- and construction
16 vehicles on the roads. There is a -- small roads,
17 this is a farming community, many vehicles travel
18 these roads. And I just ask for the respect that any
19 of these out of town companies, should this be
20 allowed, have the respect and willingness to yield to
21 those types of vehicles. Thank you.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir.
23 Folks, I'm going to assume that's just because he's
24 the Town Supervisor. So let's adhere to -- all
25 right. But the rest we're going to hold till the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 end, all right? Okay.

3 UNKNOWN MALE: Can you check the
4 microphone? It's not working.

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: This microphone?

6 UNKNOWN MALE: This one.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Sure. I can check
8 that. This microphone -- this microphone is working,
9 but you have to get close to it and kind of on the
10 bottom end. Can you hear me in the back? Can you
11 hear me in the back? Can you hear me in the back?
12 I'm not sure how much more we can do with the
13 available A.V. folks, but -- so when you come up
14 here, if you remember what I said at the beginning, I
15 said get close to the mic.

16 So, it is really close. There's two
17 mics. The smaller microphone is not coming through
18 the amplification. The smaller microphone is for the
19 Court Reporter and that's how we get our transcript.
20 And that's what the staff relies on in review. So --
21 so that everyone can hear, you do need to kind of get
22 right up on top of it. That's the best I can tell
23 you. All right. Ms. Bakner.

24 MS. BAKNER: Little hard to get right
25 up on top of it. I'm going to hang on to it. I

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 think that's the only way it's going to work. Okay.

3 My name is Terresa Bakner and I'm with the law firm
4 of Whiteman Osterman and Hanna. I represent the Town
5 of Glen in this proceeding. My last name is B as in
6 boy A-K-N-E-R.

7 The Town of Glen has participated in
8 this ORES proceeding since its beginning. The Town
9 has consistently taken the position that the size of
10 this industrial solar installation which affects more
11 than two thousand acres of land is not consistent
12 with the Town's character or the residents of the
13 Town of Glen's vision of its future.

14 The state in its rush to hit climate
15 change goals has designed a permit proceeding under
16 the now aptly named RAPID Act to push through these
17 huge solar projects exclusively in rural agricultural
18 areas. From a legal perspective, ORES has the
19 ability to overflow every local law that would
20 prevent these projects or regulate them.

21 And in all instances of which I am
22 aware, the towns who are involved in these
23 proceedings have been denied party status. So, we're
24 here tonight participating, but I want you to know
25 that the cards are stacked against the towns even

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 being parties to the proceeding which is going to
3 affect them.

4 So, in spite of the fact that the
5 towns have demonstrated that the waivers of local law
6 provisions are not supported by any offer of real
7 proof by applicants other than complying may cost
8 more or complying may result in fewer solar panels or
9 the benefits of a carbon free society outweigh the
10 harm to your community.

11 In this case, the harm to the
12 community is based on other environmental impacts.
13 The impacts on the fields and the roads caused by the
14 use of heavy construction machinery; it's only been
15 exposed to farm equipment in the past. It produces
16 storm water runoff filled with sediments from the
17 erosion of soil during construction. The compaction
18 of fields, rutting of the soils, impact to
19 groundwater wells used for stock watering and also
20 for people to drink. There is no public water here,
21 we all have our own wells.

22 For every project currently under
23 review by D.E.C. of any size, let alone through two
24 thousand acres, D.E.C. requires substantial soil
25 testing at every storm water measure that is proposed

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 to ensure that the soils are appropriate for the
3 storm water measure. In these cases, they do the
4 testing later. We don't have a final SWIP now. We
5 just have a conceptual SWIP.

6 So, the reality is that you -- you are
7 not protected by this. What I can't tell you about
8 tonight is all of the many local laws in the Town of
9 Glen that are being waived in this proceeding, being
10 requested to be waived in this proceeding and are
11 waived in the draft permit. So, we're happy to be
12 here tonight to share our comments. We're not happy
13 that the process is stacked.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, Ms. Bakner.
15 Andrea Hauser and Mr. Douglas Cole, please come down.
16 Have a seat in the front row. Mr. Thomas, you're
17 next.

18 MR. THOMAS: My name is John Thomas.
19 That's J-O-H-N T-H-O-M-A-S. Many of you know me.
20 I'm a former Town of Glen Supervisor. I served on
21 the Town of Glen planning board for fifteen years,
22 most of those years as Chairman. I served on the
23 Montgomery County planning board for more than five
24 years, several of those as Chairman.

25 I retired from G.E. Renewable Energy.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 I've been a town of red -- Town of Glen resident and
3 taxpayer for the past thirty-four years. I have a
4 significant amount of planning and renewable energy
5 experience, and I'm very familiar with the scope of
6 this solar energy project. Full disclosure, I am not
7 being paid to be here. I have never received
8 compensation of any form from ConnectGen contrary to
9 slanderous claims made while I was the Town
10 Supervisor.

11 Many of our town officials seem to be
12 anti-solar. Some have the anti-solar signs on their
13 front lawns. Our town officials are supposed to be
14 open minded and represent all residents. Our
15 Planning Board and Town Board have implemented a
16 solar energy law that looks like a solar energy ban.
17 No other permitted land use has an eighteen page set
18 of regulations.

19 They say they want to conserve farm
20 land, yet the solar law has a five hundred foot
21 minimum setback. If you take a square one hundred
22 acre parcel, this five hundred foot setback
23 requirement consumes seventy-five of those one
24 hundred acres. No other permitted use has such
25 extreme restrictions. The Glen solar law, at the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 very least, is discriminatory.

3 I applaud the landowners with
4 contracts and ConnectGen for taking the high road and
5 remaining professional and above board for the past
6 several years as this project has taken shape. I
7 encourage everyone to become more involved and to
8 educate themselves about solar energy. There are far
9 too many falsehoods being bandied about regarding the
10 supposed evils of solar energy. I'm sure you will
11 hear some of these tonight.

12 Climate change is real. The amount of
13 energy from the sun hitting the earth in one hour
14 could power the world for an entire year. Solar
15 energy is essential to combating climate change.
16 This is Glen's chance to help make a difference.
17 Whether you like it or not, we're all in this
18 together.

19 Solar energy is good for the
20 environment. This project financially benefits the
21 landowners with ConnectGen contracts, and it
22 financially benefits the taxpayers of Montgomery
23 County, especially the taxpayers of Glen. I'm here
24 tonight to voice my strong support for this
25 ConnectGen solar energy project. Thank you.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir. One
3 second, sir. Sorry, one sec. We've -- we've -- we
4 got to bump you. We have the mayor of -- I'm sorry.
5 Yes. Technology. Okay. We have the Mayor of
6 Fultonville, Mr. Tim Morford.

7 MR. MORFORD: Hi, guys. Can you all
8 hear me okay?

9 UNKNOWN FEMALE: Yes.

10 MR. MORFORD: All right. I don't run
11 on emotion. I run on logic and mathematics,
12 actually. So, I'm here to talk about the math of
13 solar panels usage inside Upstate New York. So, at
14 the best of times, solar panels work at a twenty
15 percent efficiency rating. Twenty percent. So full
16 sun, twenty percent of the time or twenty percent
17 power goes into that solar panel.

18 Upstate New York, we have a lot less.
19 We have about, you know, eighteen, sixteen percent.
20 Days like today, you may have three percent. Now,
21 there's environmental factors on top of what happens,
22 the -- the -- the percentage of you -- power can be
23 pulled in from the Sun. So, in Upstate New York, how
24 many people are allergic to pollen, you know.

25 We got pollen issues. We have a lot

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 of pollen issues in Upstate New York. There you go,
3 buddy. So, Upstate New York, the solar panels have a
4 protective coating on them, an anti-stick coating on
5 them. Now, those only last for about three years,
6 the anti-stick coating.

7 So, after the three years, what
8 happens is the non-stick coating breaks down, so
9 pollen sticks to it and other environmental factors
10 stick to these panels. Are they cleaned on a regular
11 basis? I've lived here for a long time and never
12 seen any of them cleaned before. So, do they
13 degrade? Yes. They degrade about one-and-a-half
14 percent per year due to environmental issues.

15 Now, that's not talking just normal
16 degrade -- degradation of solar panels. Normal solar
17 panels de -- de -- derogate another one point five
18 percent. So, with all the math coming out, solar
19 panels in Upstate New York are only about viable for
20 about eleven years. They're only good for about
21 eleven years.

22 So, everybody who has a twenty year
23 contract with the landowners for this, what are they
24 going to do after eleven years? What happens? What
25 happens to these panels? Are they able to be

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 recycled in eleven years? I have no idea. They may
3 be. They may come up with technology that is able to
4 recycle them. But for right now, we have no really
5 clean way of recycling the -- these solar panels.

6 Now, with John Thomas, I do agree.
7 There is a way to do this. But the problem is photo
8 photonics have not gone into where they should be
9 right now. There's been no real breakthroughs in
10 photo photonics since like the '70s or '80s. So,
11 what do we do? I don't know what the answer is, but
12 I know Upstate New York is probably not the best.

13 Does it, you know, Death Valley or
14 some other place like that? I assume a hundred
15 acres, you know, would power small city as opposed to
16 Upstate New York where we have pollen and everything
17 else going on. So twenty-two seconds. Thank you,
18 guys. And I hope you guys do the right thing,
19 everybody, whatever that may be.

20 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir. Mr.
21 Shaul. You -- sorry, Mr. Shaul. One more. Sorry.
22 Sus -- Ms. Whiteman from the Town of Glen Board is
23 actually coming up next. Sorry. Susan Whiteman.
24 Yes. Ms. Whiteman from the Town Board. And then,
25 Mr. Shaul. I promise.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 MS. WHITEMAN: I'm going to organize
3 myself, put things together here. This is an
4 important part of my moment here.

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. WHITEMAN: So, I'm -- I'm going to
7 -- now I -- now, I can begin.

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right.

9 MS. WHITEMAN: This is a liberty cap.
10 During the American Revolution, it was worn as a
11 symbol of self-government and proclamation of the
12 desire of the people that led to the founding of our
13 nation. We wore it to assert our right to local rule
14 and to control our destiny.

15 No king, no distant authority. Home
16 rule enhanced by this -- enshrined by the state
17 constitution protected that right, giving local
18 governments control over their land while limiting
19 state interference. Six years ago, the Climate
20 Leadership Commune -- Community Protection Act
21 stripped away that autonomy, showing complete
22 contempt for our communities at the cost of our
23 farmland and our local voices.

24 As if that show of contempt was not
25 enough, two months ago, the Office of Renewable

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 Energy Resources, ORES, dismissed every proposition
3 every provision of the Glen Solar Law at -- as
4 burdensome. And I don't agree with you, John. Bless
5 your heart. You're a fantastic Supervisor. But at
6 any rate, I don't agree.

7 Every provision -- I'm going to say
8 that every provision was dismissed. Not one was
9 considered viable. Even as New York State
10 legislatures dump oppressive laws upon our community
11 and in the future will dump solar panels because they
12 have no provision for removing them, talk about --
13 talk about burdensome.

14 None of them have ever set foot in our
15 town except Senator Pat Fahy, who marched in our
16 parade in Glen and in Fonda. And by the way, when
17 she was marching with us on 161 along the Town of
18 Glen, she said, oh my God, how beautiful it is here.
19 And we said, Senator, that's where the solar panels
20 will be. When you come next time, you'll be looking
21 at those solar panels.

22 She came here to get to know the
23 residents, and was thus able to better understand the
24 issues surrounding the disfiguring nature of the
25 developments. Our solar law is not burdensome. It's

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 local representative government at its best. Thank
3 you.

4 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
5 comment. All right. Now, Mr. Shaul. One sec -- one
6 second, sir. What -- what they didn't tell me is how
7 to stop it and then reset it. I think I just got to
8 let this run out. I haven't figured out how to --

9 MR. SHAUL: Mr. Shaul has been very
10 patient tonight.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes. All right.
12 You've been very patient, sir. Thank you very much.

13 MR. SHAUL: Yeah. I'm Josh Shaul S-H-
14 A-U-L. I'm the Business Manager of Laborers' Local
15 157, and I'm speaking on behalf of the -- roughly
16 seven hundred Laborers' Local 157 members in support
17 of the Mill Point Solar Project. We support active
18 solar projects or we support solar projects that
19 prioritize hiring from local communities and
20 investing in New York's workforce. Local 157 has an
21 agreement in place with this project, designating its
22 members as the first option to support construction.

23 The Mill Point Solar Project will
24 provide high quality, family sustaining jobs for the
25 hundred plus members of Local 157 who live in and

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 around Montgomery County and rely on these types of
3 projects to make a living. The New York State
4 Laborers Union and its members fully support the Mill
5 Point Solar Project. We ask that you stand with
6 workers and approve this project. Thank you.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir. All
8 right. Now, I've really got to figure this out.
9 Where's -- Mr. Farrell, you're next. Butch Bellinger
10 and Donna Hayes, please come down to the front row
11 please. Butch Bellinger, Donna Hayes. Mr. Farrell,
12 you're next, sir. Please go ahead.

13 MR. FARRELL: This is the truth, the
14 whole truth and nothing but the truth, Your Honor.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. FARRELL: I can't believe I'm here
17 doing this. First of all, can you hear me?

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Better. Yeah, better.

19 MR. FARRELL: Okay. How's that?

20 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Much better.

21 MR. FARRELL: Thank you for being for
22 and being against this because that's the American
23 way. I have nothing written. I have it all here.
24 Eighty-four years old. I signed up to protect every
25 one of you to be in the Marine Corps, so you can be

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 here and be alive. I don't know how many here have
3 been in the military. I don't want to ask you. I
4 don't want to embarrass you, but it's a different
5 world.

6 I've owned my property for fifty-five
7 years. Good and bad. When I got my piece of
8 property in 1970, yes, I was a dumb Irishman, an old
9 fart -- a young fart, excuse me, and I did a jig
10 because I never owned anything. So, through good
11 times and bad times, I had to survive and raise a
12 family. I've rented my property out for money to pay
13 my taxes.

14 I don't know if any of you ever
15 remember Walt Krueger, who was an old time farmer
16 here, who I had a sit down with when it came time to
17 pay me and told me he was on hard times. I said,
18 Walt, this is your livelihood as a farmer. I will
19 make -- I will pay my taxes in some way shape or
20 form. You just please keep it as a farm. Keep it
21 together and work it so it stays a farm.

22 Now, as sure as God made little green
23 apples, come September, you're all going to be so
24 excited and happy to get your tax bill, aren't you?
25 And run right down and pay them. Do you have the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 money? Are you all flush? No, I had to fight to
3 keep my property.

4 Solar panels, bad thing. The good and
5 the -- for and against. I will benefit from this in
6 a financial way. But my son came to me five years
7 ago and said dad, I know you love the land. If you
8 want to sell it, sell it. I said, no. I'll make
9 through one way or another. And I let Walt be on the
10 property for free. I've had other farmers come in.

11 Thank God for the Deichmans (spelled
12 phonetically) that helped me keep my property over
13 all these years. I've had heart attacks and I've
14 died, and I'm here to see you people. But I'm
15 ashamed in a way because I'm fighting for you to stay
16 -- to stay here and stay alive in Glen.

17 You -- let me explain to you one thing
18 about factories and I -- I have known of your -- your
19 gauges or all you're talking, but do you want another
20 Target warehouse in your -- in Glen? Oh, no, we
21 can't have that. Oh, yes, they do. They want
22 another three hundred bays.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay, sir. Yeah.
24 Time's up.

25 MR. FARRELL: Sorry I don't have more

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 time, folks, but I'm talking from the heart.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: You can submit the
4 long -- a much longer -- folks, there are a lot of
5 people in line, and we want to hear from all of them.
6 All right. So, Andreas Hauser. You can submit as
7 long of a written comment as you like. They are
8 making people wait.

9 MS. HAUSER: My name --

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Sorry, ma'am. Go
11 right ahead.

12 MS. HAUSER: That's okay. My name is
13 Andrea Hauser H-A-U-S-E-R. My husband and I own
14 property on Prime Road. My husband's family has
15 roots going back to the 1600s in this local
16 community. We have approximately forty acres, and we
17 have farmed our land to provide hay for our four
18 rescue horses. My husband is eighty-three and I'm
19 sixty-eight, and farming is not an easy endeavor at
20 any age. We have contracted with ConnectGen to lease
21 our land so that we can have income to buy the hay
22 necessary to keep our horses.

23 First, I would like to note the rights
24 of owning real property. When you own real property,
25 you have certain rights that go along with that

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 ownership, including right to possession, right to
3 control, right to use and quiet enjoyment, right to
4 allow others, right to use licenses and leases, right
5 to privacy and to exclude others, right to
6 disposition or to transfer the property to someone
7 else by selling, gifting or inheritance, right to use
8 property as collateral through a mortgage.

9 If this project is denied, my rights
10 are being taken away from me. I also believe that
11 the political leaders should represent all of their
12 constituents and not represent their own beliefs in
13 their political role. Second, I would like to
14 address some items from Glen Farmland's Facebook
15 page.

16 One post states in 2005, an Amish
17 community from Ohio moved to Glen and began
18 revitalizing former dairy farms. By 2019, the Amish
19 community had grown from an initial twelve families
20 to seventy-seven families with more than five hundred
21 people.

22 Dozens of new businesses were created
23 serving the entire Northeast from sawmills,
24 manufacturing of sheds, gazebos, metal roofing, buggy
25 wheels and saddle harnesses to sheep dairies, cabinet

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 and -- and furniture making, wholesale produce, maple
3 syrup and honey.

4 The loss of thousands of acres of
5 agricultural land to solar fields threatens the
6 growth of the Amish community, the agrarian way of
7 life and their livelihoods. Glen's Amish and farming
8 communities face irreversible consequences.

9 As I drive the roads in Glen, I see
10 more shed production than farming. These businesses
11 use purchased items not sourced on their own lands
12 which does not fall into the definition of
13 agriculture. Glen Farmland sent out a flyer stating,
14 could the Town of Glen become a dumping ground for
15 spent solar panels and equipment leaking toxins into
16 our land and water?

17 New York State requires that a
18 decommissioning plan be put in place as part of the
19 permit process, and Repsol ensures that host
20 communities and landowners will not bear any costs.
21 We would like to be able to determine how to best use
22 our land too as it is our livelihood as we grow
23 older, and we would also like to provide for our
24 future generations. Thank you.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 comment. Mr. Cole, you're next. Can we have Justin,
3 I think that's, Confure or Confure. Sorry if I
4 mispronounced that. Junell Pasquarelli, Sandra
5 Knapik. If you all could come down and have a -- a
6 seat in the front row please. Mr. Cole, give us your
7 comment please, sir.

8 MR. COLE: Thank you. My name is Doug
9 Cole C-O-L-E, Senior Director of Engineering with
10 K.B. Engineering at Albany, New York, here on behalf
11 of the Town of Glen, a New York State professional
12 engineer with more than thirty-two years experience.

13 So, I've been retained by the Town of
14 Glen to review the project, basic -- basically the
15 technical aspects. Over the past eighteen months,
16 I've generated numerous comment letters, and tonight
17 I'll provide you just a short summary of the
18 significant issues that I've identified.

19 One has to do with traffic. The
20 applicant has identified the hall routes in a map
21 dated October 2023 showing a proposed truck staging
22 area near Riverside Drive where the interchange of I-
23 90 Exit 28 off ramp is. They haven't identified the
24 exact location of this facility and we all know
25 there's a lot of traffic in that intersection with

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 all the truck stops that currently exist.

3 Additionally, they show sight distance
4 diagrams for the numerous driveways on the thirty
5 separate acres of parcels that the solar panels will
6 be installed upon. And they talk about having to do
7 limited vegetative clearing to achieve those site
8 distances, but the applicant has not obtained any
9 town or county approvals to trim trees or things in
10 the right of way.

11 ORES also had comments on fire access
12 roads. The plans don't currently comply with the New
13 York State fire code that requires access roads to be
14 twenty-six feet wide when they exceed five hundred
15 feet in length. They also have access roads that
16 exceed the ten foot or ten percent maximum slope.
17 And they all -- we also requested more detail for the
18 training of local fire departments, and that hasn't
19 been provided as of yet.

20 There are numerous storm water
21 pollution prevention plan issues. The biggest one is
22 that they have not performed the basic feasibility,
23 sampling and testing in the field to prove that the
24 proposed infiltration practices are going to work.
25 Those practices just don't work in silty and clay

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 soils, which is what we have here in the town.

3 As previously mentioned, the applicant
4 plans to disregard many of the town's local laws.
5 One of them being reducing the five hundred minimum
6 setback to a hundred foot for the front and rear
7 yards and reducing it down to fifty feet for side
8 yards. They also plan to reduce the setbacks from
9 wetlands from a hundred feet down to as low as fifty
10 feet.

11 And the final comment I have is about
12 the decommissioning plan. They are asking for a
13 waiver, so that they don't have to remove all of the
14 underground materials that they put in the ground
15 which is going to preclude the future agricultural --
16 returning the land to future agricultural uses.
17 Thank you.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
19 comments, sir. Mr. Bellinger.

20 MR. BELLINGER: Good evening. Butch
21 Bellinger. Some of you may know me, some of you may
22 not, but I'm one of the land owners involved in this,
23 and I'd like to say that from the agricultural
24 standpoint, this does help us in giving us another
25 form of income coming in.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 As a business owner, this makes life a
3 little bit easier throughout the ups and downs of
4 this. But as a property owner, I have a real problem
5 with my neighbors wanting to tell me what to do with
6 my property. This is an issue.

7 You know, I don't look over the fence
8 and tell my neighbor what he can do. I don't
9 understand why we want to tell everybody else what to
10 do. That's all I've got to say for this.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Well, thank you for
12 your comments, sir. Ms. -- Ms. Hayes.

13 MS. HAYES: My name is -- my name is
14 Donna Hayes H-A-Y-E-S. I -- I -- I don't know the
15 facts and the things that are said, but I've been
16 around enough years to know that everything you hear
17 and everything that's said is not always the truth,
18 and it's not always not the truth. But it's just one
19 side or the other and there's three sides to
20 everything, so.

21 My husband is eighty years old. I'm
22 seventy-eight years old. We've been married sixty
23 years. We have four kids, ten grandkids and seven
24 great grandkids. For the most of those sixty years,
25 we have lived in the town or in Mohawk, Montgomery

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 County. We have land in the Town of Glen. We have
3 owned it for forty years.

4 We were farmers. We didn't stay
5 farming because we couldn't afford to stay farming.
6 I started driving bus when my children were twenty
7 months, four years and seven-years-old to put food on
8 the table. Farms today are not what people are doing
9 to make a living. As was said, the Amish farm, they
10 have their animals.

11 Well, drive far -- further down the
12 road and see the sheds and see the other things that
13 are paying their bills and paying for their expenses.
14 I personally think, you know, I've -- I've read too
15 where this is a corporate company that is out of
16 Texas, not local. Tell me how many of your kids,
17 your grandkids who go to school in this school that
18 we provide for them and go away to a four year
19 college, how they're going to come back to this area
20 to start their family, to live on the jobs that this
21 area provides?

22 Those people in those company didn't
23 necessarily come from Texas. Matter of fact, I know
24 for a fact, the one guy came from Connecticut.
25 That's where he grew up. But our family has had

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 Sunday night dinners for thirty-five years. Those
3 are memories that I cherish very much.

4 You -- a lot of you people will never
5 get to do that or have that because your kids are
6 going to move to where they can make enough money to
7 support their family and live on today's cost and
8 everything. Everything changes whether we want it to
9 change or not.

10 My husband can't figure out how to use
11 a camera on his phone and he doesn't want to because
12 he doesn't like the modern technology. You know, no
13 matter what we do or what we say, it's going to
14 happen. If it's not this, it'd be something else
15 down the road.

16 The reason why we signed up for the
17 CoGen is because if we don't you people may get to
18 look at our green land, but we won't be able to live
19 in ours because when we make less than two thousand
20 dollars a month Social Security, you tell me how
21 we're going to pay fifty-three hundred dollars taxes
22 on our sixteen acres of land, plus our other
23 expenses. You know, it's -- we're doing it. Yeah, I
24 -- it said for survival. You're right. It is
25 survival. But that's my facts, and that's why I'm

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 doing it.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
4 comment. Mr. Hernigle? Sorry. That was out of
5 order. My apologies to Mr. Couture. You're next.
6 How did that get here?

7 MR. HERNIGLE: Can everybody hear me?
8 My name is Gary Hernigle. I live on Mile Level Road,
9 146. Last name is H-E-R-N-I-G-L-E. Some of the
10 comments here tonight about, yeah, I want to do it
11 with my land, Butch. If what you do to your land
12 contaminates my land, I have a problem with it.
13 Yeah.

14 And Josh, you come down and you talk
15 about the laborers. You've been selling a bill sale
16 before, haven't you? You're not going to get the
17 employment you think. I can assure you that. Well,
18 I know that my -- the land across the street from me
19 is on a hillside. And I know they use Roundup and
20 different chemicals on these fields to keep the grass
21 down.

22 And I know where it's going to go.
23 It's going to go into my wetlands. I don't know how
24 you can think you can build a solar field right next
25 to a wetlands, but apparently, they're -- they're

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 letting them. I mean, to have town laws and we don't
3 even follow them, we just make new ones and let the
4 state take and do whatever they want is -- is kind of
5 wrong. That's why we belong to a town.

6 I don't know. I didn't -- wasn't
7 really ready for a speech here. The bonding -- I
8 hear a lot about the bonding. I -- I -- I have a
9 problem when you say you're bonding something, and
10 you don't know how much it's going to cost to clean
11 this up at the end.

12 So, how do you bond something you
13 don't know the cost? You don't even know what to do
14 with it. So, I really don't know how -- how you bond
15 something like that. I -- I think we're going to be
16 stuck cleaning up. I guess that's about all I got.
17 Thank you.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
19 comment, sir. Now, Mr. Couture. Sorry. Confure or
20 Confure? You're up.

21 MR. COUTURE: Me?

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes, sir.

23 MR. COUTURE: You got to say my name
24 right.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Just -- it looks like

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 C-O-N-F-U-R. What is it?
3 MR. COUTURE: C-O-U-T-U-R-E. Couture.
4 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Oh, Couture.
5 MR. COUTURE: C-O-U-T-U-R-E.
6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. I'm sorry,
7 folks.
8 MR. COUTURE: Hi. I'm Justin Couture.
9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Justin Couture.
10 MR. COUTURE: I live on Oriesville
11 (phonetic) Road.
12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay.
13 MR. COUTURE: My biggest question is
14 why is New York State allowing connection to ignore
15 the Town of Glen Solar's laws? These were
16 protections specifically included setbacks put in
17 place by our locally elected officials to safeguard
18 the health, safety, and property of us residents.
19 Now, they're being cast aside simply
20 because they're considered overly burdensome to a
21 developer. Has anyone in our state government
22 considered what's overly burdensome to the families
23 who actually live here? What about all of us who
24 live up on Oriesville Road that will be completely
25 surrounded by industrial solar panels on all four

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 sides?

3 What about the -- the wells like he
4 was talking about? Live on a steep slope at risk
5 from erosion, runoff or construction? And what about
6 the impact on everyone's property values? We've
7 invested our lives and savings into our homes and now
8 we're being told that inevitable depreciation of
9 value is just collateral damage.

10 Our homes are not just numbers on the
11 development map. They're the center of our lives,
12 where our children grow up, where we plan to retire.
13 The state seems to have bent over backwards to
14 accommodate a corporation, while the people who call
15 this state home are being pushed aside. Who in
16 Albany is standing up for us? Who? Thank you.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you, sir.
18 Folks. All right. Ms. Pasquarelli, you are -- I
19 hope I said that right. Ms. Pasquarelli. You are
20 next. Can we have Karen Chaplin, Evan Wadsworth and
21 Rebecca Fisher Coonradt. Come down to the front.
22 And Ms. Pasquarelli, please give us your comment.

23 MS. PASQUARELLI: I'm Junell
24 Pasquarelli with Junell Realty. I run a business,
25 and I'm also a homeowner.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: You got to get closer
3 to the mic, ma'am. I'm sorry. You -- you want to
4 hold it or --

5 MS. PASQUARELLI: I might better just
6 pick this thing up.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Can someone raise the
8 stand?

9 MS. PASQUARELLI: Hold on.

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Bring the stand up.
11 All right.

12 MS. PASQUARELLI: I should just skip
13 the microphone. They used to call me megaphone when
14 I was a kid. Junell Pasquarelli. I'm with Junell
15 Realty. I run a business and I'm also a homeowner in
16 the Town of Glen. First of all, good evening. Thank
17 you to everyone who has taken the time to come out to
18 this meeting tonight.

19 I am a real estate broker. My
20 personal home and business is located within the Town
21 of Glen. I've been in the real estate industry now
22 for twenty-eight years. I'm here to talk about the
23 real estate values. There is no doubt the solar
24 project will drive down many property values for Glen
25 residents, specifically those that will be directly

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 next to any solar field.

3 In 2020, studies were done that found
4 -- that homes located within a mile of commercial
5 solar facilities lost an average of seven percent of
6 their value. Consider that that was based on
7 projects studied, where there was typically one to
8 five megawatts in size.

9 Mill Point Solar is two hundred and
10 fifty megawatts. The footprint here is enormous.
11 I've been seeing the consequences over the last
12 decade -- decade and our surrounding areas with solar
13 fields in place or being about to be built.

14 From my experience, I've seen property
15 values on average sell for twenty-five thousand to
16 fifty thousand less. Keep in mind, a three hundred
17 and seventy thousand dollar home at seven percent is
18 twenty-five nine. A fifty K reduction in value is a
19 thirteen to fifteen percent change. Both buyers and
20 existing homeowners have legitimate concerns about
21 the aesthetics, the noise, the long term impacts,
22 such as possible lead contamination in the soil or
23 water supply as panels break down.

24 Then what happens when some homes lose
25 their water supply because of the poles or the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 concrete that are being pounded or drilled into the
3 ground, ultimately affecting the water veins, which
4 are destroyed and connect to each of our wells.

5 There is no option to live, there is no option to
6 sell if you lose your water supply. Our homes are
7 more than just structures. They're our dreams.
8 They're our legacy. Our retirement plans.

9 We are being told to trade our
10 farmland and our home values for someone else's
11 version of progress. There are better places to put
12 solar, not in the heart of our residential and
13 agricultural neighborhoods. I moved back to Glen
14 three years ago because this is home. This is where
15 I grew up. This is the landscape where it's
16 unmatched. The beautiful wildlife we all see daily.

17 I'm asking you, don't let Glen become
18 a town of the past. Protect our property values.
19 Protect our future. Protect your legacy because your
20 children will just choose to pack up and move far
21 away.

22 And for the record regarding bonding,
23 I sat on the Town Board on Broadalbin. And I can
24 tell you that we had solar fields in Broadalbin and
25 we were trying to track down who actually owned them.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 The solar fields were in effect for at least ten
3 years.

4 Didn't matter how much we wrote, how
5 much we looked into, all they did was sell the fields
6 over and over again. We could not figure out who
7 actually owned them in the end to go after them for
8 bonding. So, think about that.

9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
10 comment.

11 MS. PASQUARELLI: Thank you.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Miss -- Ms. Knapik.
13 Folks, come on.

14 MS. CHAPLIN: Hi, folks.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. Go ahead, Ms.
16 Knapik --

17 MS. CHAPLIN: It's so great to see all
18 of you here --

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: One second, I'm sorry.

20 MS. CHAPLIN: -- and we all appreciate
21 it. I would like to go back to a statement that was
22 made by the lawyer. And she's saying --

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Ma'am, you're not
24 getting close to the mic, so we can get -- we have to
25 -- we have to get real close to it because we want to

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 make sure that what you say is recorded so it can be
3 transcribed.

4 MS. CHAPLIN: Well, I'm not sure what
5 you're saying, but I'm trying.

6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay.

7 MS. CHAPLIN: Remind me if there's
8 something I need to do more.

9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay.

10 MS. CHAPLIN: She said that this was
11 fixed meaning, and that we were going to lose. And I
12 would just like to read to you from the letter to all
13 of us saying, ORES staff position on issuing the
14 draft permit conditions ORES staff takes the position
15 that the proposed facility together with the uniform
16 and site specific standards and conditions contained
17 in the draft permit would comply with applicable laws
18 and regulations.

19 ORES staff recommends that the office
20 not elect to apply in full or in part any local laws
21 or ordinance that is applied to the facility and
22 unreasonably burdensome in view of the Climate
23 Leadership Community Protection Act targets and the
24 environment benefits of the proposed facilities.

25 So, in other words, anything any of us

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 say at this meeting, they've already decided that
3 they're going to not go by any of our local laws
4 which our work very hard, our friends and neighbors
5 to protect our village and our town. So, why are
6 they dismissing it with not even looking at it,
7 they've already decided that it doesn't matter, that
8 it meets all the specification.

9 This is their own letter to all of us.
10 So, they acknowledge that they're not even listening
11 to us. It doesn't matter what we say. But now I'd
12 like to change the subject, and I'd like to talk
13 about their environment aspects of this on animals.

14 And Junell mentioned how every day we
15 look out, and we all see beautiful animals and I know
16 that's true. It's certainly true where I live. But
17 any of you who hunt or care for animals, farmers know
18 that animals have territories and they need a range.

19 They can't just live in the amount of
20 land that is around these sites, and they're fenced
21 off. So, how are the deer, how are the raccoons, how
22 are all the animals, even the birds, how are they
23 going to survive with twenty-five hundred acres out
24 where they can live? Even deer need a bigger range
25 than that. Where is the range for all our animals.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 And by the way, I used to be the wildlife
3 rehabilitator for Montgomery County and I was the
4 only one.

5 And we have a lot of endangered
6 animals, not just eagles on your list. We had
7 wolverines here. We've had bears. We've had
8 peregrine falcons. We've had carnival butterflies.
9 So, you people haven't done your work.

10 And all these endangered animals, the
11 future of us saving our environments is, this is
12 what's at stake here. It's not that we're against
13 solar, we're not. We're against, for example, large
14 farmers, three thousand acres, one crop.

15 None of the insects survive. None of
16 the animals survive when everything flowers at once,
17 and then there's nothing to eat. That's what we
18 don't like about this.

19 And to know than that the real truth,
20 we could have bonded this ourselves. The Town of
21 Glenn, if you talk about bonding, we should have
22 bonded this ourselves, made all the profit and all
23 had free electricity and giving it to people that are
24 neighbors.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Ma'am, your time is

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 expired, I'm sorry.

3 MS. CHAPLIN: And this a foreign

4 country that owns this company.

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Could you spell your

6 last name for the record, please?

7 MS. CHAPLIN: Pardon?

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Could you spell your

9 last name for the record?

10 MS. CHAPLIN: Yes. It's Karen

11 Chaplin.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Chaplin.

13 MS. CHAPLIN: Yes.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: C-H-A-P-L-I-N,

15 Chaplin?

16 MS. CHAPLIN: Correct.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Is that correct?

18 MS. CHAPLIN: Uh-huh, yes.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much,

20 ma'am. Thank you for your comment. You may submit

21 written comments of any length.

22 MS. CHAPLIN: Do you want me to hand

23 this to you?

24 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Ms. Knapik. Do we

25 hear from Ms. Knapik?

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 MS. KNAPIK: Yeah.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Yes. All right,
4 please. I need -- ma'am, hold on just one second. I
5 need Michelle Egelston, Andreas -- you're going to
6 hate me, Bucsinzky and Keith Schue or Schue to come
7 down to the front, please.

8 Ma'am, please give us your statement.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. KNAPIK: Good evening. My name is
11 Sandra Knapik, K-N-A-P-I-K. I don't have anything
12 written. I have it right here in my heart. I've
13 lived here for over sixty years --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear.
15 Can't hear.

16 MS. KNAPI: I can't get it any closer.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: You've got to get
18 right up -- I'm sorry?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why don't you
20 change mics?

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Well --

22 MS. KNAPIK: I have lived here for
23 over --

24 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I don't know if that's
25 possible, okay.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 MS. KNAPIK: -- sixty years. I've
3 lived in the Town of Glenn, single, and then married.
4 My husband's family has had a farm in Town of Glenn
5 all his life; he's going to be seventy-five.

6 There's wildlife, there's eagles,
7 there's osprey, there's beautiful birds. This is no
8 place for solar. All this solar is not even going to
9 benefit us, not at all.

10 I've been told it's all going
11 Downstate. I don't know if that's correct, but
12 that's what I've been told. That's what I've read.
13 Take your solar panels Downstate, put them on all
14 those high buildings and there's plenty of them
15 between here and there.

16 Use the parking lots. Down in Arizona
17 and Florida, they make over things for the parking
18 lots and they're all solar. Do that. Why are you
19 using our beautiful farmland that when I first came
20 here, you'd look for miles on a clear day, it was
21 gorgeous.

22 Now, what do you see, rotten solar
23 panels. Some days, it looks like water. Some days,
24 you can't figure out what it is. We've got solar
25 panels in the town of Florida that they built, they

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 ruined the farmland and they don't even use them
3 anymore. They haven't even used them, they've never
4 used them. So, is that what's going to happen up
5 here, they're going to put all this crap in, and then
6 they're not going to be able to use it.

7 I think there ought to -- you go back
8 to the -- the table, and you better really think
9 about what you're doing and where you're putting the
10 stuff. I understand the farmers have lived all their
11 lives. They've worked hard, they deserve a break
12 too. I appreciate that, and I understand that.
13 However, this is beautiful country. There are many
14 places where you can put solar panels not in the
15 country such as this.

16 And we're not the only town that's
17 fighting this. I know that. So, you know what I
18 think you can do with your solar panels.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
20 comment. All right. Mr. -- folks, please. Mr.
21 Wadsworth and then, Ms. Fisher Coonradt up here.

22 MR. WADSWORTH: Good evening. My name
23 is Evan Wadsworth, W-A-D-S-W-O-R-T-H. I'm a lifelong
24 member of a multigenerational Montgomery County
25 family, representing those who cannot be here and

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 deeply rooted in the Glenn community.

3 I'm here to speak not as a -- not just
4 as a local business owner and part-time resident --

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I'm sorry, sir. I'm
6 sorry, please continue.

7 MR. WADSWORTH: -- but as a steward of
8 the community and as someone who takes seriously the
9 long-term well-being of our environment, economy and
10 community identity.

11 I'll break this down into parts. The
12 first is a lack of direct community benefit. This
13 project offers no guaranteed long-term jobs or
14 meaningful financial investment in the Town of Glenn.
15 And although the Local 157 will be constructing, that
16 time will come and go without justifiable long-term
17 benefits. It's driven by an outside private company
18 with a track record of prioritizing profit and not
19 rural resilience.

20 Local input has been marginalized
21 under Section 94C, eroding our right to shape our own
22 land use. There's going to be a decline in land and
23 home value. Through a citation of a University of
24 Rhode Island study shows a minimum of a seven percent
25 decline with homes within point one miles of solar

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 arrays at a much smaller footprint. Mill Point being
3 two hundred and fifty times larger. That's a direct
4 hit to the families whose homes in which often
5 represent their primary asset.

6 Not only funding this undesired
7 project, but through taxes on the front end, but
8 paying even further down the road in forced
9 depreciation of their primary asset. Glen residents
10 will carry this burden while the profits go
11 elsewhere. The environmental degradation and
12 ecosystem risk represents over two thousand acres of
13 prime real -- prime farmland that will be removed
14 from food production for decades.

15 This land ranks among the best in the
16 state with an N.C.C.P.I. rating of forty-five. Once
17 it's compacted and covered, it does not regenerate.
18 Disruption to native species and soil carbon loss as
19 well as runoff issues are all serious ecological
20 consequences that we will have to manage locally.

21 There's a myth of clean solar. While
22 marketed as green energy, this project is enabled by
23 federal subsidies and not market viability.
24 Greenwashing language that hides the fact that these
25 installations are not scaled to meet actual grid

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 demands in our region.

3 The panel's power generation estimates
4 are based on ideal lab conditions, not on Glen's
5 winter climate, snowfall and Northeast weather
6 variability.

7 There's a question for the lifespan
8 waste and the unknowns. A true lifespan of solar
9 panels remain untested at scale, especially in our
10 climate. Disposal and recycling at the end-of-life
11 panels pose a future hazard with no infrastructure in
12 place to manage it locally. The plan for long-term
13 decommissioning and battery storage does not address
14 a lack of long-term impact in returning to an
15 agricultural basis from which it began.

16 This is a call for responsible
17 stewardship. Glen deserves a future rooted in real
18 sustainability, not in speculative development
19 dressed in green language. These projections -- this
20 project threatens our environment, our economy and
21 our autonomy, all without delivering meaningful
22 energy output as a community value.

23 And if you look for what the basis of
24 this is, there's a lot of landowners here who want to
25 be able to say that they can do with what their land

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 what they please, and I totally respect that. But
3 the bottom line is this is taking advantage of
4 financial instability. This is an approach by a
5 large entity leveraging money that wouldn't be there
6 without subsidies.

7 It doesn't make sense from an energy
8 viability standpoint. Solar is great. Green energy
9 is good in practical uses, not in mega-commercial
10 inputs. Thank you.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
12 comments, sir. Folks, please. Rebecca Fisher
13 Coonradt.

14 MS. COONRADT: Hi, everyone. Can you
15 hear me? My name is Rebecca Fisher Coonradt, C-O-O-
16 N-R-A-D-T. I am not here tonight to speak against
17 the solar panels based on the fact that our friends
18 and neighbors have made decisions to lease their
19 land. I feel that is their right.

20 However, I am here to address specific
21 concerns on how this could impact our family. The
22 first thing to know is that we live on Ingersoll Road
23 and we live near the power lines now. So, if you've
24 ever been up to the power lines, you know that
25 there's a sound that comes along with that. And on

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 top of that, our -- the transfer station is going to
3 be built in the field behind us.

4 So, these things are -- are items I
5 can accept, but what I don't know and what is unknown
6 at this time is how that's going to impact the sound
7 of my ambient life, you know, right now, we get to
8 hear, birds, animals just, you know, living -- living
9 our life out there in a quiet way.

10 This could be a cumulative effect, and
11 it could really impact our day-to-day lives. My next
12 concern is based on the issues that come along with
13 the clay that we live in day-to-day. Any resident of
14 Glen knows those challenges.

15 We are -- we could run into flooding,
16 runoff, and well vulnerability, which has happened in
17 other states and as a matter of fact, have had
18 settlements with companies based on these -- these
19 well contaminations.

20 I am concerned that the oversight in
21 soil testing and design are lacking and put our
22 swamplands and wells at risk. Also, I am very
23 concerned about the lake effect for anybody who might
24 not know what lake effect is. Lake effect is when
25 the panels actually reflect and look like water.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 In California, there's a thousand
3 birds die a year in landing in this mega solar field,
4 thinking that it's water. And I would really like to
5 know and better understand what they're going to do
6 to prevent those deaths because I value and
7 appreciate our land. I value and appreciate our
8 wildlife and I do appreciate the fact that people are
9 allowed to do what they want to with their land, but
10 respectfully ask that you take into consideration the
11 concerns for the people who live around it. Thank
12 you.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
14 comment. Now, we have Ms. Egelston, yes. And then,
15 Mr. Bucsinszky, yes. All right. So, can we have
16 come down to the front, please, Keith Sher or Schue,
17 sorry. Mackenzie Egelston, Shelby Wadsworth. And
18 Ms. Michelle Eggleston, please give us your comment.

19 MS. EGELSTON: My name is Michelle
20 Egelston. My last name is spelled E-G-E-L-S-T-O-N.
21 I live 1519 State Highway Route 161 right in the
22 historical Hamlet of Glen.

23 My husband and I have lived in the
24 town of Glen for forty-two years. We both come from
25 farming backgrounds. So, I'm very familiar with the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 plight of the farmers today, and I sympathize with
3 that.

4 I -- I'm not a politician. I'm not a
5 developer. I'm just someone who loves this town and
6 the life that we've built here. And I'm here today
7 because I believe we are standing at a crossroads,
8 one that could change the character of Glen forever.

9 We hear the word progress thrown
10 around a lot, but progress isn't paving over our best
11 farmland and putting up solar panels. It is not
12 shutting the door on future farmers, and it's not
13 sacrificing the things that bring people here in the
14 first place. Our peace, our tranquility, our beauty,
15 and our sense of open space that gives this town our
16 heartbeat.

17 When I look around this room, I see
18 many familiar faces, people that I love, people that
19 are working so hard to keep their farms going and
20 they're struggling. But covering them all with solar
21 panels is not the answer. What happens when the hay
22 fields are gone. When the barns are gone. When no
23 child grows up dreaming of farming because there's no
24 land left to farm?

25 We have a Future Farmers of America

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 Club right here at Fonda-Fultonville Central School.
3 They have their own club for Future Farmers of
4 America. What happens when there's no land to farm
5 because it's getting covered with solar panels? We
6 value agriculture. Agricultural tourism isn't just a
7 buzzword, it's how our town of Glen thrives. People
8 come here from all over for apples, pumpkin patches
9 and farm fresh eggs, for scenic drives in the country
10 that make them slow down and breathe. We are the
11 respite of the Montgomery County.

12 The view that we get from the town of
13 Glen of Big Nose and Little Nose is featured on the
14 Montgomery County logo which is going to be blocked
15 by the solar panels.

16 You can't build that kind of charm
17 back. And once you lose it, I'm afraid, but twenty
18 to thirty years is not temporary. It's not like the
19 chain link fence is going to come down and all of a
20 sudden you're going to throw crops on there again.

21 This proposal doesn't just disrupt
22 farmland. It reshapes who we are as a community and
23 as farmers and people that appreciate where we live.
24 It places the profits of an out of state company
25 above the well-being of our community, and I don't

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 think that's a trade we are willing to make. We
3 deserve to be more than a dot on a map that's easy
4 pickings and is way easy to buy up. We deserve a
5 voice in what happens next.

6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
7 comment. Mr. Andras Bucsinszky. Folks, please.
8 Thank you. Spell your last name, please, sir.

9 MR. BUCSINSZKY: My last name is B-U-
10 C-S-I-N-S-Z-K-Y. I am -- I'm here to bring up an
11 aspect that hasn't been mentioned, and yet it's
12 probably the most important one to everyone alive and
13 it's the spiritual aspect.

14 And when I say spiritual, I don't mean
15 God or religion. I mean that who we are at our core
16 as people. If we don't remember who we are, that we
17 are not some idea that's been put out there, then --
18 then we are going to struggle no matter what happens.

19 Personal experience. I am an
20 immigrant. So, many years ago, when I was preparing,
21 I -- I needed to take a citizenship test before I
22 could -- I could be sworn in and become a U.S.
23 citizen. I remember I was so moved by -- by the
24 material I was -- I was studying it, I was in tears.
25 When I was learning about the founding of this

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 country and the principles upon which it was founded.

3 And I -- I wasn't feeling particularly
4 patriotic before that, but that resonated with me
5 that -- that struck a chord. So, the question I want
6 to ask specifically of -- of the regulating agency,
7 however unbiased it is hoped that they are.

8 At what point did corporate interest
9 become higher than we, the people. At what point did
10 we give up our own sovereignty.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Folks, I'm sorry,
12 excuse me. Sir, one second. Okay, folks. That's
13 going to muddy up the record. It takes away from his
14 time. And I said at the end, we would all get to,
15 you know, have a nice hand for everyone when we're
16 all done. Okay. I'm going to hold myself to that
17 promise.

18 All right. Sir, please continue and
19 we'll let you run over a little bit.

20 MR. BUCSINSZKY: And at what point did
21 we forget the people who lived before us, before my
22 kind of people came here, my colored people, who
23 considered every decision carefully, impact seven
24 generations.

25 Seven generations it was considered,

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 and they were not involved in heavy industry. So,
3 I'm -- I'm calling upon your sober judgment
4 personally because you are here. The rest of the
5 agency isn't here. I'm calling upon your own
6 humanity, your own understanding of yourself as not
7 just this body, because each of us knows the truth,
8 who we are.

9 It's just a matter of whether or not
10 we have what, this one thing that has been talked
11 about, but -- but really not embraced, courage -- to
12 have the courage, right? That's all it takes. Have
13 the courage to acknowledge who we are. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
15 comments, sir. Okay. Keith S-C-H-U-E or -- yes,
16 sir. Thank you.

17 MR. SCHUE: It's Keith Schue, S-C-H-U-
18 E. So, good evening. My name is Keith Schue. I'm
19 with New York Energy and Climate Advocates, an
20 organization that recognizes the need for climate
21 solutions that work in the real world.

22 I'm sorry, I have a client -- I have a
23 master's degree in electrical engineering, so I
24 understand the grid. I'm also an environmentalist.
25 In fact, for several years, I've worked for the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 Nature Conservancy in Florida, where the focus of my
3 attention was on the relationship between human
4 infrastructure and natural infrastructure, large
5 landscape level conservation ecosystems, wildlife
6 corridors.

7 Since moving to New York, I've
8 provided technical input on state -- state energy
9 policy from fracking to the C.E.S. to the C.L.C.P.A.
10 And in this case, I also don't live that far away, so
11 I'm here.

12 Some renewable enthusiasts like to
13 think that solar, wind and batteries can do it all.
14 That it's just a matter of political will. They'll
15 sometimes refer to the to J.F.K.s famous speech about
16 putting a man on the moon and how America rose to the
17 challenge.

18 Okay, true. But when J.F.K. said
19 that, he didn't say that we'd get to the moon by
20 riding sidesaddle on a horse. I'm not saying that
21 solar and wind in the right place don't have a role
22 to play, however, if we are truly serious about
23 decarbonizing, it's going to take more than fragile,
24 sprawling, intermittent, low energy density, low-
25 capacity factor solar panels that are made in China.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 It's going to take compact, reliable,
3 energy dense nuclear power. So, I did a calculation
4 accounting for capacity factor, these two hundred
5 fifty-megawatt solar project on twenty-six hundred
6 acres might make about four hundred gigawatt hours of
7 electricity annually.

8 That's roughly the same amount of
9 energy as a fifty -- fifty megawatt microreactor. A
10 microreactor is even smaller than an S.M.R. that can
11 fit into a barn.

12 Yet instead, tonight, you're talking
13 about sacrificing twenty-six acres of farmland and
14 habitat for unreliable energy. Remember when New
15 York made the mistake of shutting down Indian Point,
16 that was over sixteen thousand gigawatt hours of
17 carbon free electricity lost every year and we
18 haven't recovered from that.

19 Today, we're burning more fossil fuels
20 for electricity than when the C.L.C.P.A. was adopted.
21 It would take over sixty thousand acres of solar or
22 fifteen hundred giant wind turbines to replace the
23 electricity from that one nuclear plant, plus
24 batteries transmission and backup generation. It
25 doesn't make sense.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 Just like many of us technical folks
3 predicted, the C.L.C.P.A. is failing. It's failing
4 even sooner than we thought it would. Business and
5 industry are also rightly -- rightfully concerned
6 that current plans will lead to higher electric rates
7 and deprive the state of reliable abundant energy
8 essential to prosper in the 21st Century.

9 The good news is that around the
10 country, other states, red and blue states, they're
11 gearing up for advanced nuclear and now finally, New
12 York is too. So, that's -- that's a good thing.
13 Let's do that. Taking a lopsided approach involving
14 extreme build out of wasteful and consuming
15 materially intensive solar and wind will not work,
16 and it will destroy beautiful Upstate New York.

17 On the other hand, a rational balanced
18 approach, one involving a modest expansion of
19 renewables and a modest expansion of nuclear can get
20 us there. That's how to meet our energy needs and
21 tackle climate change without -- without destroying
22 nature. Thank you.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
24 comments, sir. Ms. Egelston. All right. Can we
25 have -- come down to the front, please. Shelby

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 Wadsworth, Tom Nelson, Steve Helmin, Ray Dykeman.

3 Ms. Egelston, please give us your comment.

4 MS. EGELSTON: My name is Mackenzie
5 Egelston. My last name is spelled E-G-E-L-S-T-O-N.
6 My husband, Clark, was born to be a dairy farmer.
7 His entire life, he's been steadfast in his
8 dedication to continuing his family's dairy farm in
9 the Town of Glen.

10 I know very few people who can do what
11 he does and I am positive that most people in this
12 room truly do not know what it's like to spend a day
13 in his shoes.

14 He is a welder, plumber, electrician,
15 tire repairman, crop planner, payroll accounting
16 specialist, milking equipment repairman, pesticide,
17 herbicide control professional, personal supervisor,
18 CAFM compliance manager, equipment operator and
19 animal husbandry --specialist.

20 All while managing half a dozen
21 employees, the impossible task of finding new people
22 who want to work on a farm, being on call twenty-four
23 seven and pulling lead on all future directional
24 planning of the entire operation.

25 And add to that, the almost crippling

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 sense of obligation to not only financially support
3 three family households and our long-time employees,
4 but to also be a good steward of his family's land
5 and legacy as farmers in our community. He doesn't
6 just do it all, he does it all really well. He is an
7 excellent dairy farmer, but being an excellent dairy
8 farmer is not enough.

9 Getting a bachelor's degree in dairy
10 science, implementing countless innovative ideas,
11 investing in new technology, researching and
12 implementing many diversification options is not
13 enough.

14 Year after year, we struggle to break
15 even. When I say this, I want to be very clear that
16 we are by no means destitute. Our family is
17 extremely blessed with what we do have, and we do not
18 take that for granted.

19 However, somewhere along the way, this
20 narrative has developed where it's not only expected
21 for farmers to constantly struggle and to not turn a
22 profit, but it is now almost embraced by the farming
23 community itself.

24 Today's self-imposed portrayal of what
25 it means to be a farmer is not one that our family

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 accepts. It is not our responsibility to bear that
3 burden, nor is it fair to expect that of our children
4 and future generations of farmers which will continue
5 on our farm with the implementation of solar on some
6 of our land.

7 Each year, millions of dollars of
8 subsidy payments and grants are awarded to Montgomery
9 County Farmers. Could New York State change many
10 laws to make farming more hospitable here,
11 absolutely. But don't discredit the enormous amount
12 of money our federal government is already pouring
13 into American farms, into farms which are still
14 unable to return any or marginal profits.

15 For generations, the residents of Glen
16 have been benefiting from the sacrifice and labor of
17 the few people like my husband's family, who have
18 chosen to farm in this community.

19 They believe it is their right to
20 enjoy the bucolic view scape and quaint country way
21 of life without having to do any of the manual labor
22 or invest the money to purchase and maintain
23 thousands of acres of farmland.

24 At the same time, our farm is
25 constantly dealing with neighbor complaints, ranging

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 from reporting us to the D.E.C. regarding our crop
3 and manure management practices to questioning our
4 calf housing operations, all of which have been
5 dismissed and discredited.

6 Just recently, a Glen resident
7 physically blocked the road in Downtown Glen in order
8 to verbally assault our custom harvesting operators
9 because they were unhappy with the mud they were
10 tracking between fields. You cannot have it all.

11 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
12 comment. Shelby Wadsworth?

13 MS. WADSWORTH: Hi, my name is Shelby
14 Wadsworth, third generation family living here. I
15 hate to see our community divided like this. It
16 really breaks my heart because we are an agriculture-
17 based community. I'm not a farmer myself.

18 The -- the land that my family lives
19 on, I'm thankful we have our other businesses that we
20 can be able to sustain the land that we live on and
21 it breaks my heart to hear of the farmers that are
22 just getting by. Why isn't agriculture being
23 promoted in this area? Why is there not more state
24 funding going to them to be able to sustain the
25 beautiful land?

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 Having green land is a part of being
3 more green and being more, I -- I just want to speak
4 with what I wrote because I'm trying not to get too
5 emotional. But one of the parts that I'd like to
6 speak on is the Climate Leadership and Community
7 Protection Act. It was passed to reduce emissions
8 and build a cleaner, more just New York. A major
9 part of the law acknowledges the role of farmland.

10 I quote directly from the State's own
11 Climate Action Council report. Not only are natural
12 and working lands critical for carbon, but also
13 avoiding their conversion eliminates the perspective
14 of additional greenhouse gas release.

15 The statement should stop us in our
16 tracks because right now, the state, through NYSERDA
17 and ORES, is actively funding and fast tracking the
18 exact kind of farmland conversion the C.L.C.P.A.
19 warns us against.

20 Projects like the Mill Point Solar,
21 backed by out of state developers with zero ties to
22 our community, is targeting two thousand acres of
23 prime farmland, some of the best soil in our state.

24 And this I wrote as I was sitting here
25 because I've been doing my research here for weeks

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 and many people for several years, but I am now
3 awake. There's not just one issue, this or that,
4 there's multiple things of why this is negatively
5 impacting our community.

6 And it's more than just meets the
7 surface. I oftentimes, I'm an independent person. I
8 like to see other side -- each side. And after doing
9 my research, I -- I really do feel for the farmers
10 who took the deal because I don't blame them, I blame
11 the system. I wish there was more support to
12 agriculture in that form of helping climate change
13 versus covering them with solar panels, which the
14 pollution, the possibilities, the -- them potentially
15 not even being completely usable where they're
16 generating the enough energy.

17 Three minutes is really not a lot to
18 speak on this, but this is a consumption issue at the
19 end of the day. Here we are asking for more, more,
20 more. We need more energy, yet we can learn from our
21 Amish neighbors, they don't use electricity. They
22 are using the land. And for us to even speak on that
23 they're building sheds for their business versus
24 farming the land; they're farming the land too. Let
25 me tell you.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 And it -- it just, it breaks my heart.

3 We're covering the most fertile land and that's our
4 solution. There are other options. People mention
5 parking lots.

6 They mention any place that you could
7 put on a rooftop. That should be done first before
8 our farmland. This is all that Glen is about. This
9 is our town and there are people that live here.

10 We talk about animals that are
11 affected. We live in this environment too. So,
12 please reconsider if you have the ability to do so.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
14 comment. Mr. Nelson, Tom Nelson.

15 MR. NELSON: Hi, my name is Tom
16 Nelson. I live in the Town of Florida. I'm a dairy
17 farmer. I operate DeLaval Farm with my wife. We -
18 we and our family have been in business for a hundred
19 and seven years.

20 I just wanted to talk a few things
21 about the impact that solar has on the community. I
22 have the unique perspective of having a ninety-
23 megawatt solar facility. High River Energy was built
24 less than a mile from our farm, and to the east of
25 us, a smaller facility, a nineteen-point-nine

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 megawatt locally controlled facility was also built
3 within the same time.

4 A lot of promises were made to the
5 community when these solar facilities were installed.
6 The roads would be rebuilt. Runoff would be attended
7 to. Community concerns would be addressed, and most
8 of that fell by the wayside when the problems became
9 too hard.

10 On the High River Energy Facility, I
11 was told by a New York State representative that they
12 failed every single SWEP inspection, the storm water
13 prevention and pollution guides that they were
14 supposed to adhere to.

15 They removed topsoil in graded areas
16 that they were not supposed to do. And as far as I
17 knew, after this was done, none of it was addressed.
18 We never heard any follow-up. We never heard any
19 enforcement actions. When they were directional
20 boring for the electric lines to the transformer
21 site, they lost one of the boring heads.

22 They also lost several thousand
23 gallons of bentonite, which is used in the boring
24 process to seal the shaft before they pull the
25 conduits through. Per D.E.C., the landowners that

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2 had wells within five hundred feet of that spill were
3 supposed to have been notified of the spill. I know
4 those people personally. They were not notified.

5 You have real problems with
6 enforcement with these facilities. The one to the
7 east that was controlled by the town of Princetown
8 was a joke. There was a near fatality because the
9 contractor did not adhere to proper construction
10 procedures. A utility vehicle, U.T.V., that was not
11 supposed to be on the road was hit and the occupants
12 were critically injured, did survive, but it could
13 have easily turned into a fatality. Thank you for
14 your time.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
16 comments, sir. Folks, one second. Mr. Helmin --
17 Steve Helmin?

18 MR. HELMIN: Yes. Tried to show my
19 technical expertise, but --

20 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I noticed that, sir.
21 Thank you for -- thank you for trying.

22 MR. HELMIN: Steve Helmin, H-E-L-M-I-
23 N. I wear many hats, Historian, Village Trustee, but
24 in this case, Co-chair of Glen Farmland and President
25 of Stop Energy Sprawl.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 The drive permit is deficient. We'll
3 be putting in comments on that. You've heard some of
4 the reasons tonight. I have to say, I'm very
5 impressed by our citizens and I hope that you are
6 too.

7 The level of information and facts for
8 such a small group of people, only twenty-five
9 hundred people, English and Amish, joined by friends
10 and neighbors.

11 And, you know, our little town as the
12 supervisor told you, is sorely pressed both
13 administratively and financially to help complete a
14 correct a full record here. And that seems in a lot
15 of cases to be by design. These -- these -- these
16 laws take advantage of small communities because we
17 do not have that level of sophistication to fight
18 back and to provide the type of pushback or
19 information that is needed.

20 So, you've heard some facts about home
21 values, environmental degradation, economic impacts,
22 enforcement issues, because we're in such a rush. At
23 twenty-six -- at two thousand six hundred and sixty-
24 six acres, this will be the largest industrial
25 facility in Montgomery County. It is huge, folks.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 And that is the point. That's why people are here,
3 not because they don't like solar.

4 It's because this is huge, and it will
5 make a huge impact to our town and everything about
6 it going forward. At that size, it's three times the
7 size of Central Park. Could you imagine ConnectGEN
8 going to Central Park and saying, oh, we're going to
9 pave this whole thing with glass and steel. Can you
10 imagine how many rooms like this would be filled with
11 people upset about that?

12 Why is it happening here? Why are we,
13 another environmental justice community, not
14 considered as good citizens as the people who
15 surround Central Park.

16 It's unduly burdensome from our
17 community. It stretches from Fultonville to Glen and
18 back down towards Oriesville. And I too decry the
19 chaos and strife that this developer and this Rapid
20 act have brought to our community.

21 And for what, I mean, it's going to
22 take a two thousand acres of quality agricultural
23 soil sacrificed to this project, fifteen hundred of
24 which are prime and prime terrain. Another hundred
25 acres of carbon sequestering forest to be clear cut

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 with no specific limit for the remaining three
3 hundred twenty-five acres.

4 We already have fifteen megawatts of
5 nameplate capacity here, more than enough to serve
6 our population. This is for export, why do we need
7 two hundred fifty megawatts more?

8 Like I said, we'll be submitting
9 additional comments on this. I just think that you
10 really need to say no to this project or at the very
11 least, recognize that the permit needs a lot of work,
12 go back and rework it and come back to us another
13 day.

14 One last note, I do want to -- I
15 noticed that there's a lot of Amish folks here and
16 I'm very happy they were able to come here. I'm
17 understanding that tomorrow is a holiday for the
18 Amish and there would have been even more here except
19 that many of them are on the road today as well.

20 So, thank you very much.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
22 comment, sir. Can we have Mr., Claude Pietrowicz
23 come down to the front row? Mr. Dykeman, you're
24 next. And then -- it looks like someone wrote Reale,
25 R-E-A-L-L or R-E-A-L-E and put their phone number.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 So, could that person also come down to the front
3 row?

4 MR. DYKEMAN: Hi, my name is Ray
5 Dykeman, D-Y-K-E-M-A-N. And I guess I'd like to
6 start out by saying, I'd like to clear up. I've
7 heard a lot about prime agricultural land. The only
8 people that --

9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Go ahead and pick the
10 mic, sir -- go ahead and pick the microphone up.

11 MR. DYKEMAN: Yeah.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: There you go.

13 MR. DYKEMAN: The only people that
14 would say that this is prime ag land and this is
15 people that don't farm it or people that have never
16 been anywhere else to farm it. I can attest to that
17 because I've been fighting in the mud for the last
18 couple days. We'll be very fortunate to get all our
19 corn in that we're going to be trying to get in this
20 year.

21 This basically is decision for me is a
22 simple economics. Energy is short. We're short
23 electricity and unfortunately, we're -- milk is
24 abundant and always will be. And farmers will always
25 suffer the consequences of that. Dairy is

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2 struggling. The average rate of return on a dairy
3 farm in this state for the last seven years is zero
4 percent.

5 The top hundred and thirty farms in
6 the state range anywhere between five and eight
7 percent, and to do all that work and -- and to get
8 that little bit of a return is not -- not that good.

9 Plus, we have processing issues where
10 we don't have enough processing in the state.
11 They're working on that now, but that that's not
12 going to be helping for a few years.

13 There was a set of farms out west that
14 just lost their market. Fifteen of them got nowhere
15 to go with their milk. I'm an independent producer.
16 If I can't find a home for my milk, I get the
17 opportunity to pay everybody for working, and I get
18 to dump it in the manure pit.

19 There's so many problems in this
20 industry that actually, the solar panels are a breath
21 of fresh air to most people that are in the dairy
22 industry. We have a monopoly in the milk business
23 and that's not going to change.

24 And I do, I agree with Butch, I find
25 it very interesting that you could say to me, we

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2 don't care how bad you're struggling. We don't care
3 how bad your industry is. We don't care that you've
4 paid the taxes and -- and the interest and the
5 principal on this land, but we're going to force you
6 to keep farming.

7 And if you don't farm it anymore,
8 we're going to dictate to you what you do with your
9 land. That is very amusing to me. My wife was with
10 me tonight. My son is with me tonight. I don't want
11 my son to continue in this industry.

12 I've had enough, and I don't want his
13 children to do this anymore. And if we do, do it,
14 we're going to keep doing it at a lower level, but I
15 do not want milk to be my sole source of income. I
16 need to have other -- other incomes coming in, and
17 solar being one of them, and then, I will continue
18 farming on a smaller scale. But I don't want them to
19 continue, the heritage thing is -- is crazy. Thank
20 you.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
22 comment, sir. Mr. Pietrowicz or Pietrowicz?

23 MR. PIETROWICZ: Claude Pietrowicz, P-
24 I-E-T-R-O-W-I-C-Z. This project is a massive
25 project. In the end, there will be a net loss of

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2 jobs. I know people say they're not, but if somebody
3 just said they have six employees.

4 Well, where are them six employees
5 going to go. The two to three full-time solar
6 company maintenance workers will not replace all the
7 lost members of the community, workers that have a
8 vested interest in the towns.

9 Businesses that support agriculture
10 will be affected. Fewer acres in production means,
11 fewer tractors, fewer replacement parts, less seed,
12 less feed, loose moose will be spreading less manure.
13 Tri-Valley Crop will be spreading less seed and
14 fertilizer.

15 Infinity Harvesting will be harvesting
16 less crops. Thousands upon thousands of acres taken
17 out of production is not a small loss for all of
18 these businesses and will affect the amount of
19 equipment they buy and the amount of employees they
20 have.

21 Two big tractor dealers in town will
22 be affected. Ag tourism will be reduced. There are
23 fewer farm stands, fewer pretty views. The farm
24 stands that are left and those businesses that rely
25 on tourists, orchards to pumpkin patches to corn

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 mazes, will be left out in the cold.

3 If our Amish neighbors decide there's
4 not enough land left for them, they may move. I'm
5 not saying they will. They may, but who say when
6 they do move that solar is not going to follow them,
7 because that's what they look for, farmland. So does
8 the solar company.

9 They moved here due to the
10 considerable amount of rich farmland in an area that
11 could support their lifestyle. ORES should take that
12 into consideration as the solar companies should have
13 when they decided to site the project here.

14 The next two paragraphs, I can't talk
15 about because they were -- had to do with
16 communicative impact of the other solar projects.

17 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Sir, that's a
18 legitimate topic if you want to --

19 MR. PIETROWICZ: What was that?

20 A.L.J. JOSEPH: That's a legitimate
21 topic if you want to make that comment, please.

22 MR. PIETROWICZ: So, right next door
23 to this one, there's an application that has just
24 been deemed complete. It's for a three-hundred-
25 megawatt facility called Flat Creek. That's being

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2 proposed by a company that's never built a project.

3 That company also has or had in the
4 works another project called tabletop in Palatine
5 Bridge, which appears to be on hold, which seems to
6 have been done right after the county came out with
7 the law on the accumulative impact law.

8 I don't know if that was coincidence
9 or planned to not address that law at this point. I
10 don't believe that the law was addressed in the Mill
11 Point either.

12 Then there's in -- in Canajoharie
13 where the Flat Creek project is being proposed,
14 there's Mohawk Solar. That was given a permit in
15 2020 -- sorry.

16 A.L.J. JOSEPH: No, it's okay.

17 MR. PIETROWICZ: And nothing has been
18 done with that one yet.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right.

20 MR. PIETROWICZ: ORES regulations fail
21 to require companies to look at the cumulative impact
22 of their proposals. ORES is a tipping point that
23 puts an equipment dealer out of business. I guess
24 that's about all I have except for as Steve brought
25 up.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Well, sir, your time
3 has expired, but you can -- you're welcome to submit
4 that. Written comments, folks.

5 MR. PIETROWICZ: Okay.

6 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Written comments are
7 given equal weight with your -- with your verbal
8 comments --

9 MR. PIETROWICZ: Okay,

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: -- tonight.

11 MR. PIETROWICZ: Thank you.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Sir, thank
13 you very much for your comment. Ms. Reale, Ms. Reale
14 or Mr. Reale -- all right. All right, folks, we have
15 about forty-five-minutes worth of speakers remaining.
16 We're going to take fifteen-minute break at this
17 time.

18 We will resume at eight p.m. The time
19 is now seven forty-four p.m. We will resume at eight
20 p.m. Thank you very much. We are off the record.

21 (Off the record; 07:44 p.m.)

22 (On the record; 08:00 p.m.)

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay. We're back on
24 the record. Again, I have a speaker card, the name
25 is just Reall or Reale. Did anyone -- anyone

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 answering to that? Okay. All right. R-E-A-L-L or
3 R-E-A-L-E, maybe? Reese, maybe, okay. All right.
4 Come down to the front, please, and have a seat in
5 the front row over here. Susan Whiteman?

6 MS. WHITEMAN: No, I've spoke already.
7 Well, I'm happy to speak again.

8 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Well, I -- we'll have
9 to -- sit down, I've got you nervous, sorry.

10 MS. WHITEMAN: I've got a whole
11 another, you know.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I'm sure. Muleback,
13 Michael Muleback? Patti Pietrow -- Pietrowicz, I'm
14 sorry if I'm bad at that. Greg Harkenrider, come
15 down folks, you're on deck. Susan Mallory. Why
16 don't I get my reading glasses, would that be a good
17 idea, folks? Okay. Or is it Renee, the phone -- the
18 phone number ends in eight one two six. Okay. All
19 right. And then, Mr. Muleback, you're after that,
20 okay.

21 All right. Ma'am, please speak loudly
22 and get up close to the microphone. It's the same
23 microphone that I'm using, it's just I'm closer. And
24 please give your full name and spell your last name,
25 please.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 MS. MERTENS: Yes.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. I don't
4 set it up, sir, I apologize for that. And we will --
5 we will learn from this experience, I hope. And we
6 will work on the audio visual next time, all right.
7 Sorry about that, sir, thank you. Go ahead.

8 MS. MERTENS: Thank you. My name is
9 Renee Mertens, M-E-R-T-E-N-S. I wanted to first of
10 all just thank you for the forum. I am pro
11 alternative energy. I have had solar residential
12 solar since 2018.

13 And prior, when I had lived in
14 Saratoga County, I had a nuclear plant that was a
15 half a mile from me, and the cooling stream went
16 through my property. So, I'm very well acquainted
17 with both. Having said that, I do want to talk about
18 utility scale, so that concerns me.

19 Foreign utility scale entities usually
20 sell off for maximum profits. And as we've heard
21 earlier, they sell -- they sell, then you can't keep
22 track of the companies. The problem with that is
23 when something happens, something like tornadoes and
24 hailstorms.

25 Now, Montgomery County has had three

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2 tornadoes in the last year, so think about that. If
3 we have large hail, it ruins the panels, who's going
4 to repair it, who's going to pay for that, who's
5 going to fix it?

6 Solar usually has twenty to twenty-
7 five year lifespan, wind turbines fifteen year
8 lifespan; nuclear lasts for decades. Old nuclear,
9 not like new nuclear, old nuclear was fusion, it is
10 now fission. And there's a big difference, so much
11 so that Kathy Hochul, our governor knows this. And
12 she's made a big investment into G.E. Verona Ford
13 nuclear, ninety-six million to be exact. Let's talk
14 about nuclear just a little bit more.

15 Again, this supports local energy
16 independence for the state of New York, it has a
17 small footprint unlike these utility scale projects.
18 It is a reliable by seven by twenty-four, three
19 hundred and sixty-five days a year. It provides
20 power to thousands, it will provide power to chip
21 fabs, it will provide power to data centers; this is
22 how New York State is going to grow. I am pro
23 agriculture, I am a homesteader myself, I -- I've
24 supported Farm Aid. Kathy Hochul showed up in 2024
25 to thank Willie Nelson for the donation. I hope some

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2 of you are taking advantage of those grants. Just be
3 aware of that.

4 So, let's go back to utility, so with
5 ConnectGen, they're going to offer you a ten percent
6 discount if you hook up with them as your provider.
7 And when ORES has to do more infrastructure upgrades
8 for the grid that causes national grid to pass the
9 cost on to you, so that ten percent is now void, and
10 those prices will continue to go up.

11 Okay. So, this is what I have to say
12 to the state, listen to the people, save their
13 communities and the Amish community. I thank every
14 single one of them for being here, they are
15 instrumental regardless if they use electricity or
16 not.

17 The forests need to be saved, trees
18 store more CO2 than these glass things that they want
19 to put up on the fields. We need to support our
20 local farmers and save our agricultural lands and
21 soils, the state can do better.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
23 comment, ma'am. Thank you very much.

24 MS. MERTENS: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Mr. Muleback. All

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 right. Sorry about that, okay. Patti Pietrowicz.

3 MS. PIETROWICZ: Hi, I'm Patty
4 Pietrowicz, P-I-E-T-R-O-W-I-C-Z. I'm not much of a
5 talker, but I feel that losing farmland is a very
6 high price to pay for this project.

7 I feel that the labor union, good for
8 them for having two years of work where if two
9 thousand acres was sold to maybe twenty families,
10 they could have work for thirty years, except,
11 instead of just having solar panels sitting on these
12 -- these beautiful farmland. That's about all I have
13 to say, thank you.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Well,
15 thank you for your comment. Mr. Harkenrider? Mr.
16 Harkenrider, one second, please -- please come down
17 to the front Jonathan Vidulich, Sarah Vidulich,
18 Bonnie Couture. Please come down to the front, have
19 a seat in the front. Mr. Harkenrider, please give us
20 your comment.

21 MR. HARKENRIDER: Greg Harkenrider, H-
22 A-R-K-E-N-R-I-D-E-R. I just want to focus on one
23 aspect of this project that is, it's not really
24 addressed in your regulations, at least not directly
25 and that is the sheer size of this project.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 This is a huge project, probably the
3 third or fourth largest solar project that's advanced
4 this far in New York State. This is literally two
5 thousand six hundred odd acres, but that's really an
6 understatement because that's just the project
7 itself.

8 It's not a nice even rectangle, it's
9 got tentacles going every which way and little
10 islands and stuff and leaves a lot of areas that are
11 bordered on two sides, or sometimes even three sides
12 by the project.

13 Those are going to be either
14 inaccessible or difficult to access to the point
15 where they may not be viable. So, if you take into
16 account what's occupied by the project, what's
17 surrounded by the project, and what's in close
18 proximity to the project, you're probably talking
19 about more than a third of the Town of Glen.

20 That is a huge -- huge impact. We
21 think of something like that Dollar General Warehouse
22 over by Schoharie Crossing in Fort Hunter, that's --
23 that's a big development. That wouldn't -- that
24 would fit in a little quarter of this -- this
25 project.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 You'd have to have twenty Dollar

3 General warehouses to occupy the amount of land of
4 this space, do you think we would seriously consider
5 putting twenty huge warehouses in the Town of Glen;
6 it'd be ridiculous.

7 You -- you would never even -- even do
8 it, but that's what's going to happen with this
9 project. And make no mistake, the Town of Glen, if
10 this gets built will be unrecognizable. You -- it
11 will be utterly transformed, and none of you voted
12 for that.

13 But it's going to happen to you unless
14 this gets drastically changed. If it was in the
15 middle of the Mojave Desert or in Arizona, I would
16 say you could build a project of this size. But in a
17 town of -- of -- of this size with the population it
18 has, it's just -- it's just going to wreck the town.

19 And I don't know if your regulations
20 allow you to consider that or not, if they don't,
21 they need to be changed, and the sooner the better.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
23 comments, sir. Susan Mallery.

24 MS. MALLERY: My name is Susan
25 Mallery, M-A-L-L-E-R-Y. I've been a resident and a

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2 taxpayer in Montgomery County for thirty-two years.
3 I've lived in Upstate New York my entire life.
4 Growing up, probably seventy-five percent, eighty
5 percent of my -- the kids in my class all came off of
6 farms.

7 Today, most of those farms are gone,
8 but they chose alternatives. They didn't try to
9 necessarily preserve generational income. If people
10 think that this land is going to go back into
11 farming, that is not the case. The solar panels have
12 a lifespan, agronomists say once the land has been
13 taken out of production and compacted and the topsoil
14 has been removed, it takes a hundred years to
15 recover. So, don't think that this land's going to
16 go back into farming.

17 And to the cumulative impact, I don't
18 know why ORES has cited our county, but they have.
19 And I would suspect it's because we're the closest to
20 the need, being the urban areas east of us and
21 downstate.

22 For utility solar, our county, the
23 forty-ninth smallest county in the state is cited.
24 We have one project done, one project permitted,
25 these two in the permit stage, we will represent

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2 twenty-five percent of the state's solar goals in the
3 forty-ninth smallest county in the state.

4 All of these panels are going to go on
5 active farmland, this isn't wasteland. You know, I
6 can respect you as farmers, I have fifty-five acres,
7 I have a full time job, I take care of fifty-five
8 acres myself.

9 I do hay, I raise animals; it's not
10 easy. But you know what, I have a choice, I could
11 sell it. That's what most of the kids I grew up
12 with, what their families did. It's not going to
13 create jobs, you know, the union workers, they have
14 jobs anyways.

15 And they aren't going to spend money
16 in our county because we don't have hotels or motels
17 to put them up. We're an ag related district, you do
18 have a right to do what you want with your land, but
19 I know I had to sign something saying I'm buying
20 property in an ag district.

21 I know there's going to be smells and
22 dirt and odor, you know what, I accepted that. I
23 know I only have ten seconds left, so I would like to
24 see a show of hands for the people here who are
25 against these projects.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Folks,
3 that doesn't -- the record won't reflect that.

4 MS. MALLERY: That's fine, I just
5 would like you to know not everyone wants to speak,
6 but they do have opinions. Thank you for your time.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
8 comment. Jonathan Vidulich.

9 MR. VIDULICH: Okay. Good evening.
10 Just want to thank you for the time, my name is
11 Jonathan Vidulich, it's V-I-D-U-L-I-C-H, resident of
12 the Town of Glen.

13 And today, I'm just going to very
14 briefly speak specifically to the archaeological
15 study that was done. I've studied the archaeology of
16 the Mohawk Valley myself for probably the better part
17 of three decades.

18 I've worked professionally in the
19 field of C.R.M., Cultural Resource Management
20 archeology for over a decade. I ended my tenure
21 there as field director, and there -- there are some
22 definite concerns that I have with the -- the quality
23 of the archaeological work conducted by T.R.C., and
24 I'm just going to list a few of those out.

25 I can give you the -- some of the

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 paper afterward. But the Phase One A archaeological
3 study, that's basically to -- it's basically to -- to
4 look at the prior history of the land. Basically,
5 the -- the older homes that were on it, possibly
6 during colonial times, taking into consideration the
7 cultural resources as far as the Native American
8 history. The Mohawk Valley, you know, has had Native
9 Americans here for ten thousand years.

10 There was colonial activity here in
11 the seventeenth century and beyond. And the Phase
12 One A is supposed to look at all this, it's supposed
13 to look at all the maps, et cetera. Basically, with
14 that project, they -- they left out -- this is just
15 with the One A study, that's the initial
16 archeological study.

17 They left out two properties as best I
18 can tell from reviewing the material. The Agelson
19 property, a good portion of it was left out. A
20 portion of the Hayes property was also left out of
21 the study. Those properties later show up, you
22 know, as far as the A.P.E., the air Area of Potential
23 Effect for the One B, so I don't -- I don't know how
24 that was missed, if it was missed, but it's
25 definitely something that needs to be looked at.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 T.R.C. also excluded two very
3 important county maps, the 1856 map of the Town of
4 Glen in 1905, which show historic structures. These
5 are, you know, you could find them right at the
6 clerk, they're -- they're common practice for any
7 C.R.M. company working in the state of New York to
8 include those, and they did not, I do not know why.

9 During the actual shovel test
10 excavations where they're out there actually testing
11 the land, there was many S.T.P.s were overlooked just
12 because there were existing crops on the land, or
13 they basically dug down a little ways, hit a stone,
14 and typical practice in archaeology is to move that
15 over until you can actually dig. I don't see any
16 record that that was done.

17 And I guess I'll end with -- there --
18 there's a very large Seventeenth Century Mohawk site
19 at the northwest corner of the project, and I -- I
20 see very little mention, if at all, of that. The
21 cemetery of that was never -- never located, and --
22 and I don't see any -- any mention of any of that in
23 the record.

24 So, all of these are quite a bit of
25 concerns related to the archaeology. And, I guess

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 the last thing I'll end on, I know a lot of property
3 owners have mentioned that, I love farming myself, we
4 farm. And I know, you know, I can understand
5 property rights and people wanting to be able to do
6 what they want to do on their land.

7 But we're talking about individual
8 parcels, you want to be able to do what you want to
9 do, but, I would raise the argument, you know, you
10 may own the parcel, but who owns the landscape, who
11 owns the landscape that we all have to look at, you
12 know, for a generation to come.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your --

14 MR. VIDULICH: That's it.

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: -- comment, sir.

16 Thank you very much. Sarah Vidulich.

17 MS. VIDULICH: Good evening. Sarah
18 Vidulich, V-I-D-U-L-I-C-H. I just wanted to come up
19 here and say I understand, I understand that the
20 landowners can do whatever they want to their land
21 and that they're trying to do everything that they
22 can to make a legacy for their children.

23 I understand that. I came from a
24 city, like, literally a city. My postage stamp lawn
25 could be mowed in two minutes and fifteen seconds,

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 that's it. I came out here, I'm a transplant, I love
3 it out here. I don't care if it smells, I don't care
4 what I look at, I love it. I understand.

5 Please understand we're trying to save
6 our land and our homes as well, I understand that the
7 state has spent a lot of money on these projects,
8 that it would be like building a ten million dollar
9 home, and then, immediately putting gasoline and
10 lighting a match after it's finished, the minute it
11 is finished.

12 I understand that officials shake your
13 hand and have ribbon cutting ceremonies for local
14 sustainable farms that provide food to the local
15 communities, yet they go behind the backs and they
16 take the land away that we could actually move onto.

17 And if we -- and I under -- also
18 understand if we support our farms and the local
19 sustainable farms, local food, we would have better
20 food security than having to go somewhere else. I
21 understand if I ever wanted to move, I would have to
22 accept a significant amount less on my farm and on my
23 house than I would ever want.

24 And for even the -- for the record,
25 even Zillow has said that those estimate are a

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 starting point and not something set in stone, it's
3 just somewhere to start from. I understand that the
4 state has a vitamin D problem, and we want to put up
5 solar. The last dry weekend we have had in Upstate
6 New York, and that includes the Town of Glen, was
7 November 16th and 17th of 2024, guys, it's May 28th.
8 We haven't had a lot of, you know, sunny days.

9 I understand, and that I understand
10 you want to save your farms, we also want to save
11 them too, and we also want to save the Town. Thank
12 you.

13 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
14 comment. Ms. Couture, you're next. Can we have down
15 -- let's put these back all the way. We have down in
16 the front, please, Diane Reilly, Bonnie Bargstedt,
17 Clark Egelston, and Daniela -- no last name. Phone
18 number ends in zero six one nine.

19 Okay. Come on down, and, ma'am,
20 please -- please give us your comment.

21 MS. COUTURE: Bonnie Couture, C-O-U-T-
22 U-R-E. Could you turn the air conditioning down?

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I -- I -- for -- for
24 the record, I have been trying to get that, and I
25 think it may have come down, because I'm not -- no

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 longer trembling.

3 MS. COUTURE: I am.

4 A.L.J. JOSEPH: We'll do our best,
5 we'll give you some extra time there, ma'am.

6 MS. COUTURE: Good evening, and thank
7 you for the opportunity to speak. Tonight, I want to
8 talk about something that is hard to see unless
9 you're looking closely. Something that isn't just
10 fading away quietly, it's being erased.

11 According to the United States
12 Department of Agriculture, Montgomery County has over
13 two -- two hundred and sixty-two thousand acres of
14 land, and eighty-eight percent of it is protected
15 farmland. The best soils for growing food and
16 everything that sustains a nation. Our Town of Glen
17 comprehensive plan written in 2000 tells the same
18 story, three thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven
19 acres of true prime land.

20 And over eighteens thousand more that
21 are prime if drained or soils of statewide
22 importance. Through the years, our local soil and
23 water conservation service has confirmed these
24 numbers verifying what we already know.

25 We are stewards of some of the most

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 productive land in New York. AcreValue, a national
3 land productivity database ranks Montgomery County
4 thirteenth out of sixty-two counties in New York for
5 soil productivity.

6 Thirteen places us above every
7 neighboring county, therefore, when ConnectGen
8 reported that the mill point one facility site
9 contained only three hundred and twenty-nine acres of
10 high quality soil; I was puzzled.

11 Therefore, I conducted my own analysis
12 of the parcels comprising the facility site. Using
13 the U.S.D.A. land classification and identified over
14 two thousand acres that qualify as prime, prime if
15 drained, or -- or farmland of statewide importance.

16 But why the drastic difference? Not
17 because the soils changed, but the rules did.
18 Because in a shift that quietly took place about
19 2019, coinciding with the rollout of Governor Cuomo's
20 New Green Deal, New York started the process of
21 moving away from the U.S.D.A. system and began
22 developing its own approach using Mineral Soil Groups
23 to classify our land.

24 But unlike U.S.D.A. classification,
25 M.S.G.'s were never intended to guide farmland and

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2 conservation. They were created for property tax
3 assessment focused on productivity for hay and corn.
4 And New York is the only state in the nation using
5 this classification system.

6 So, now, Mineral Soil Groups are being
7 used to determine which lands are important enough to
8 protect even though they were never designed for that
9 purpose. And this is not just a current, it's issue,
10 it's rooted in history. On January 31st, 1978, the
11 Soil Conservation Service codified that prime
12 farmland designation should not be subject to
13 challenge. This was to prevent the loss of
14 protection for productive soils already supporting
15 thousands of farms.

16 The rule was also stressed the need to
17 identify farmland of statewide import, that was
18 forty-five --

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay.

20 MS. COUTURE: -- years ago. And yet,
21 here we are watching a soil classification --

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Your time has expired.

23 MS. COUTURE: -- designed to assess
24 hay and corn productivity, erase our valuable
25 farmland that produces our food. The Town of Glen's

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 farmland is prime, productive, and quietly
3 disappearing. And the truth is once this land is
4 gone, it will never come back.

5 We have to protect for all of those
6 whose futures depend on the choices we make today.

7 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
8 for your comment.

9 MS. COUTURE: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Ms.
11 Reilly.

12 MS. REILLY: My name is Diane Reilly,
13 R-E-I-L-L-Y, and I'm a resident of the Town of Glen.
14 I want to talk about the damaged panels and or the
15 components thereof. Solar panels and all other
16 components can be damaged or destroyed during or
17 after construction.

18 Upon reviewing the application
19 submitted by ConnectGen, Montgomery County L.L.C.,
20 for the Mill point one project, I see no reference to
21 the maintenance, replacement, or disposal of panels
22 and or their surrounding infrastructure if they are
23 damaged by wind, hail, straight line wind, tornadoes,
24 fire, et cetera.

25 If the panels and or components need

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 to be replaced during or after construction, where
3 will the panels or components be taken? Will they be
4 land filled, if so, will it be within Montgomery
5 County, within New York State?

6 Will the panels and or components be
7 dismantled in an environmentally sound manner in a
8 dedicated facility? If so, where? To minimize the
9 leaching of many of the toxic chemicals and heavy
10 metals that are within the panels, what is the
11 timeframe of preparing and removing the damaged
12 panels or components?

13 Will the soil be tested, will the town
14 officials and land owners be notified in a timely
15 manner? Until this issue is addressed in detail, the
16 project should go back to the drawing board and not
17 be approved.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much
19 for your comment. Ms. Bargstedt? Sorry about that,
20 ma'am.

21 MS. BARGSTEDT: Okay. Well, I'm going
22 to start by saying the most dangerous are the ones
23 who don't know what they don't know. And I -- I will
24 stop. Bonnie Bargstedt, B-A-R-G-S-T-E-D-T.

25 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 MS. BARGSTEDT: Sorry about that.

3 A.L.J. JOSEPH: That's okay.

4 MS. BARGSTEDT: For those of you who
5 aren't aware and who don't really live the life that
6 we all live, half of the farms in the State of New
7 York have been lost in the last ten years, this is
8 nothing new, this is nothing that solar has done to
9 us.

10 It's the markets, it's the -- the
11 things that we work with on a daily basis that most
12 of you know nothing about. There used to be dozens
13 of dairy farms in Montgomery County, it's the low
14 prices, the lack of processing, and New York state
15 regulations that are making it hard to make ends
16 meet.

17 It's not solar farms killing us, those
18 market forces are, and they existed long before rep's
19 offers first came into Glen. I know because I'm a
20 dairy farmer, and I live here in Montgomery County
21 and work beside a lot of other wonderful quality
22 dairy farmers here trying to make ends meet.

23 The ladies who run our books in our
24 offices, you don't know what it's like to have a pile
25 of bills on your desk, and you can't pay them. So,

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2 you have to call Farm Credit, and you have to ask for
3 another hundred thousand dollar advance on your loan
4 just to try to get through and make your payroll.

5 And then tax season comes around, you
6 don't know what that stress is like for folks to have
7 to call their -- their vendors and say, I can only
8 pay half of my bill this month. And so then you take
9 on more interest, right, because you've added on to
10 your operating loan, and that's what you're doing to
11 make ends meet.

12 Solar is giving us all an opportunity
13 to keep our property rather than split it up and
14 divide it. Quite honestly, as I look around, how
15 many of you are living in homes that are built on
16 land that used to be farmland?

17 There's a lot of homes that are on
18 what used to be lovely -- lovely fields. I know
19 that, I grew up here. For those of us who are
20 involved in farming, we don't have retirement
21 pensions like you do, our land is what we've got for
22 a pension, and we need to have projects like this to
23 allow us a way to get out as we get older.

24 There's nobody rushing in, I don't see
25 any lenders out there looking to loan a young person

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 three, five, eight, ten million dollars to get into
3 this business. You don't know what these pieces of
4 equipment cost us that are parked in our driveways.

5 You don't know what it's like to be a
6 farmer and have your neighbors call D.E.C. on you
7 because you've got mud on the road, this year we are
8 in a horrific situation, there's parts of the state
9 that have no corn in the ground yet, much less get
10 their first cutting put in.

11 But people tend to call about the
12 smell of our manure and what -- what we're doing, and
13 they think they know best. I'm really glad that you
14 all feel that it's up to us to keep it on our
15 shoulders to pay taxes on land so you can enjoy a
16 beautiful view.

17 You've got a myopic view of what we
18 do; we spend a lot of money, we maintain the
19 wildlife, we maintain the beautiful views that you
20 all enjoy, which makes your property values stay up.
21 And I know everybody thinks that farming in New York
22 is such a great place to be.

23 Let me just tell you what happened
24 last week in Albany, Representative Rosenthal and
25 Senator Bessent from down in New York City have

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 introduced bills in the State of New York to no
3 longer allow any more farms to expand beyond seven
4 hundred cows.

5 Thanks New York, really a great way to
6 make us all feel like we're valued here to support
7 Chobani and Upstate and Fairlife and all this
8 expanding production that we've begged for. And now,
9 we can't expand our farms to meet that need.

10 Pennsylvania and Ohio and Virginia and
11 North Carolina and -- and Michigan, they're laughing
12 all the way to the bank. You'll see their trucks
13 pulling in and filling that need for us because we're
14 not --

15 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you --

16 MS. BARGSTEDT: -- going to be able to
17 do it.

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.
19 I'm sorry, excuse me. Mr. Egelston, you're next. Do
20 we have Daniela, didn't put a last name, phone number
21 ends in -- okay. All right. If you could just have
22 a seat in the front. Tamara Douglass, come on in the
23 front row. Yes.

24 Tamara Douglass come on down, Chelsea
25 Gandara, Nick Battisti, Andrew Barrett. Folks, if

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 you did not fill out one of these cards and you are
3 waiting to make a statement, then you are not in
4 line. Please go now and fill out this card. Mr.
5 Egelston, you have the floor, sir.

6 MR. EGELSTON: My name is Clark
7 Egelston, E-G-E-L-S-T-O-N. I am a fourth generation
8 dairy farmer in Glen, part owner of Glen Meadows
9 Farm, and I support the Mill Point Solar Project. My
10 dream since a young age was to return home after
11 attending college and take over and grow the family
12 business.

13 Farming is not easy, very few people
14 are willing to make the time commitment, accept low,
15 if any, profit margin, take on the associated risks,
16 put in the physical labor, and at this field of work
17 demands. Some of the people opposed to this project
18 are against it because they don't want to lose the
19 Viewscape they feel they are entitled to, even though
20 they have done nothing to create, maintain, or pay
21 for said view scape.

22 Each year, it seems like we get
23 squeezed just a little tighter, and margins continue
24 to get smaller. Agreeing to host solar panels on our
25 property was not an easy decision. At the end of

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 this lease, the land will be returned to its original
3 state and will give myself and future generations the
4 opportunity to farm it once again.

5 In the meantime, it will help
6 supplement our farm income -- with income to continue
7 running our operation at a smaller scale, protecting
8 ourselves from a volatile market. This project is
9 providing our state with a valuable resource and is
10 one of the best sources of renewable energy we have.

11 I don't think this project is going to
12 destroy our Town, or I want to agree to do it. On
13 the contrary, I think it's going to preserve what
14 farmland we do have left both outside and inside the
15 project.

16 In closing, to all of those who have
17 helped and supported our farm over the years, I thank
18 you for what you've done and for your continued
19 support. I've done my best to be neighborly to
20 everyone around us and will continue to do so.
21 Despite what some may think, I do love this town and
22 its people. Thank you.

23 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
24 comments, sir. Daniela. And -- and please state and
25 spell your last name for us, thank you.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 MS. SARDI: My name is Daniela, my
3 last name is S-A-R-D-I. I'm a resident of Johnstown.
4 We like to tell ourselves that we own land, but
5 that's a story. One that's written in contracts and
6 deeds, but not in truth because you cannot own what
7 will outlive you.

8 You can't take the land with you when
9 you die, you can only care for it while you're here.
10 Private land ownership is a legal fiction that may
11 hold up in court, but not in spirit, and not in the
12 eyes of future generations who will live with the
13 consequences of our choices.

14 We do not inherit the land from our
15 ancestors, we borrow it from our children. And they
16 will be the ones asking, did you leave the land
17 better than you found it, did you act as a guardian
18 or as a taker.

19 So, the question is not, what can we
20 do with this land, the real question is, will our
21 children look back with gratitude or with grief for
22 the choices we made. Are we planting seeds they can
23 grow or leaving behind wounds they'll have to heal.

24 They call it progress, yet it repeats
25 the oldest story of this country. Take the land,

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 profit from it, and leave someone else to carry the
3 cost. We're told this will save the earth, but the
4 earth doesn't need saving, it needs respect, and this
5 isn't respect, it's exploitation dressed in green.

6 By choosing this, we're locking
7 ourselves into a future built on a technology that
8 will soon be obsolete if it isn't already. What's
9 green about panels built on forced labor in China,
10 rare minerals pulled from the lands in Africa and
11 South America, leaving behind poisoned water and
12 displaced lives.

13 What's green about a twenty year
14 lifespan with no plan for what comes next, millions
15 of tons of solar waste with nowhere to go but
16 landfills where cadmium and lead will leach into the
17 soil and water?

18 What's green about flattening living
19 soil until it can no longer breathe, drink, or grow,
20 or coating panels with toxins that trickle down into
21 the roots of what once fed us. What's green about
22 Repsol, ConnectGen's parent company, the fossil fuel
23 giant behind this project who caused Peru's largest
24 oil spill, polluted Amazonian rivers, the ocean, and
25 just days ago, soaked farmland in Spain with crude

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 oil. They call it green, but the color of money has
3 always masked the color of truth, the truth is this
4 isn't green energy, this is greed and a betrayal of
5 our farmers, our future, and the land that feeds us.

6 Because the earth may not belong to
7 us, but our choices will echo through every
8 generation that follows. I think the root of the
9 problem is just an over consumptive machine that will
10 devour until there's nothing left to devour. And so
11 my reminder to everyone is to just tap into your own
12 personal power and stop playing the game, that would
13 be my solution. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
15 comment. Ms. Douglass, Tamara Douglass.

16 MS. DOUGLASS: Hi, I'm Tamara
17 Douglass, D-O-U --

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Please get right up to
19 the mic, ma'am, so we can all hear you.

20 MS. DOUGLASS: D-O-U-G-L-A-S-S.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you very much.

22 MS. DOUGLASS: Well, everybody's
23 pretty much said about the destruction of this
24 beautiful land that is given to us. We're to be good
25 stewards of the land, progressive. This is not

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 progressive, this is toxic waste that is going to be
3 a problem in the future.

4 I would not want to live near one of
5 these solar farms, I don't want to be dealing with
6 any E.M.F.T. or whatever the radiation that is there
7 that kills insects, that kills small animals, and the
8 environment is taken away for the animals to live.

9 Of course, the scenery will definitely
10 change; it will no longer be a majestic area to come
11 and see and to visit and to go apple picking and
12 pumpkin, you know, picking pumpkins that kids like to
13 come out to this area and support this -- the farmers
14 because it's going to be -- it's not going to be a
15 good sell because I -- when I see solar panel fields,
16 I have to put the blinders on because it's so
17 upsetting to see.

18 It is pollution of the eye and also
19 the toxic elements that are in these panels, it reads
20 proper management. And the man from Florida, it
21 doesn't sound like proper management is happening.
22 And once it's in our soil and in our water, it's
23 there, and I don't know where these panels are going
24 to go once they have to be removed, that's another
25 problem.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 You know, those wind -- those wind
3 mills that they're putting up, there's a lot of
4 fields that they're being buried in now because they
5 don't work. What's the efficiency, first of all,
6 we're not even going to benefit from it other than
7 the -- the farmers who are hurting for to be -- to
8 keep their farms. I do feel sorry for the farmers,
9 they have a plight because our state is not very
10 friendly to our farmers, and no farms, no food.

11 This is really serious because there
12 are repercussions, and we're going to have to live
13 with them. And I don't know why our town can't do a
14 straw vote. Why can't we vote, we the people vote
15 whether we want it in our county.

16 I don't like this thought that it --
17 they're changing the bylaws or the rules, regulations
18 so that intimate domain can come and do their thing.
19 I just think we, the people, need us to be able to
20 vote on it.

21 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
22 comment. Again folks, if you didn't fill out one of
23 these, we're coming to the end, so. Chelsea Gandara,
24 Ms. Gandara, please give us your comment.

25 MS. GANDARA: My name is Chelsea

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 Gandara. It's G-A-N-D-A-R-A, and I live on Van Epps
3 Road with my husband and two young children. One of
4 the houses proposed to be completely surrounded by a
5 solar farm.

6 We moved to Fultonville from our
7 twenty-five acre mountain home in Northville for the
8 school district and beautiful community, believing it
9 would be our forever home.

10 As a nurse and my husband a local
11 police officer, and military serviceman, we've worked
12 hard for what we have. We pay our taxes and we abide
13 by New York State law. I don't want my children
14 growing up near a solar farm.

15 The health impacts alone, I don't want
16 them near it, I don't want myself near it, I don't
17 want my family near it. They're still studying these
18 -- the health impacts, there's many studies already
19 out there. It has been proven living near high power
20 sources does cause cancer, many different types of
21 cancer, I don't want to be exposed to that.

22 As a nurse, for example, many people
23 here have heard of Prilosec or Omeprazole, it was
24 developed in the early nineties for GERD, gastric
25 reflux, and it was overprescribed and is still being

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 overprescribed. But guess what, thirty-five years
3 later, we are now coming out to find that this causes
4 diabetes and osteoporosis.

5 Commercial solar farms started in the
6 early 2000s, we do not know the long term effects of
7 people living near these things. Why am I being
8 forced to live surrounded by a solar farm, why are my
9 children being forced?

10 I've contacted multiple state
11 organizations and the local one fifty-seven only to
12 be told that I have options -- options. And I asked,
13 what are my options? And they said, selling my home
14 as a choice, I just purchased my home and can't
15 afford to lose twenty-five thousand dollars in
16 closing costs, or sell it at a discount because the
17 value will drop significantly.

18 No one wants to live near these
19 things, my house is completely surrounded. My
20 husband and I are both public servants who do work
21 very hard, and I know the farmers also work very
22 hard. And I know New York State and Kathy Hochul and
23 Governor Cuomo has screwed the farming industry, and
24 I understand that, and they're being forced into
25 this.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 It's not their fault, and it's also
3 not mine, but why am I being punished, why am I being
4 punished by New York State? New York State, who's
5 protecting me, who's protecting my family, who's
6 protecting my property value, what am I supposed to
7 do? Sell my home? I don't want to live around these
8 things, this is not fair. In Massachusetts, if you
9 drive up and down the -- the highways, guess what you
10 see on the side of the highways, solar panels, it's
11 unused space.

12 Why is New York State putting this in
13 my backyard, why do I have to wake up every morning
14 and cry because that's what I did when I found out
15 this was happening, alls I could do was cry, I can't
16 sleep -- I can't sleep.

17 We are a middle class family, I don't
18 have a choice in this matter, what am I going to do,
19 what is New York state going to do for me? Please,
20 somebody answer me, what am I supposed to do, what
21 are my options?

22 I don't want to live around these
23 things, what am I supposed to do, please, somebody
24 tell me. Because I called and I've not got an
25 answer.

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

2 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. I'm sorry.

3 MS. GANDARA: I'm really upset, I'm
4 really sad -- I'm really sad, this is happening.

5 A.L.J. JOSEPH: I appreciate that,
6 ma'am, I -- I do appreciate that, I'm sorry.

7 MS. GANDARA: I don't know what to do,
8 somebody help me.

9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Okay.

10 MS. GANDARA: Please, somebody help
11 me.

12 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Well, your
13 time has expired for you --

14 MS. GANDARA: Yeah, my time has
15 expired, and guess what -- guess what, what am I
16 supposed to do, nobody has given answers, I called
17 everybody in the state. What am I supposed to do?

18 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. We'll have
19 you talk to someone afterwards, okay.

20 MS. GANDARA: Yeah, and lose forty
21 thousand dollars.

22 A.L.J. JOSEPH: All right. Ma'am,
23 thank you very much. Mr. Battisti. And then, Mr.
24 Barrett.

25 MR. BATTISTI: All right. Guys, my

1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972
2 name is Nick Battisti, Bravo Alpha Tango Tango India
3 Sierra Tango India. And something I just want to
4 touch on that hasn't been touched on is, the
5 firsthand experience of actually working on these
6 solar fields.

7 I've done everything from being a
8 laborer up into a superintendent on these. And then
9 I worked for Colliers Engineering where I was a
10 survey crew chief and working directly with quality
11 control, and working on solar farms from Buffalo over
12 to Connecticut up to Maine.

13 And I've seen the way that these solar
14 fields are put in, I've seen the trash that gets
15 buried in the ground that gets hidden. I've seen all
16 the oil leaks, all the machine leaks, all the
17 hardware that gets tossed in where -- where they
18 drive these panels.

19 They put in about a three foot hole
20 around it, and they bury all the trash in there.
21 I've seen the corners that get cut, you know, all
22 these superintendents, they get a huge bonus if they
23 finish ahead of time. So, guess what they do: they
24 cut corners.

25 I promise you, every promise made,

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2 they're not intended to keep them. You know what's
3 going to happen in twenty years, twenty-five years
4 when these contracts are up, they have zero intention
5 on bringing the land back to what it is.

6 What they're going to do is they're
7 going to sell, and that contract's going to be null
8 and void, and that's just how it goes. And then,
9 they'll move on, they'll keep building these, and
10 that's just what they do.

11 So, I got sitting here and I haven't
12 been in this room since I graduated in 2014, and this
13 community takes a lot of pride in this land. You
14 know, this -- the -- the people are the heart, but
15 the land's the soul here.

16 And God's not making any more of it,
17 so we need to think long and hard about what we're
18 going to do with this land here. Thank you.

19 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
20 comment, sir. Mr. Barrett, Andrew Barrett.

21 MR. BARRETT: Andrew Barrett, B-A-R-R-
22 E-T-T. My name is Andrew Barrett, and I am the Lead
23 Project Development Manager for the Mill Point Solar
24 One project. I worked for Repsol, the company
25 developing the project, our company was formerly

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2 known as ConnectGen.

3 I was not the original development
4 manager on the project when we first visited Glen and
5 Montgomery County in late 2019 and early 2020, but I
6 have been fully responsible for the projects since
7 2023.

8 Though our company name changed in
9 2024, our goals have been the same from the
10 beginning, be transparent with all members of this
11 community and all potential stakeholders. Doing that
12 may sound simple, but it takes a lot of time and
13 work.

14 It requires frequent travel here to
15 Glen, countless phone calls, emails, and face to face
16 meetings to share information, answer questions,
17 correct rumors, deliver project updates. ConnectGen
18 and Repsol, myself, and my colleagues have been doing
19 just that trying our level best here for five and a
20 half years.

21 We are not perfect, but every single
22 piece of our outreach begins with positive intent and
23 an open ear. I have traveled to Glen for almost
24 every month for two and a half years now, I fully see
25 and understand the wide range of views on this

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2 project.

3 There are a large number of
4 stakeholders, there are project supporters, there are
5 project opponents. There are participating
6 landowners, there are vital town, county, state, and
7 other officials. There are local business people,
8 farmers, teachers, and first responders.

9 They are the residents of Glen and
10 Montgomery County, they all live here and have good
11 reason to want to know as much as possible about the
12 project, the development plans, the timeline, and the
13 impacts during construction and operations.

14 Understanding that no town of over two
15 thousand people will ever agree perfectly on any
16 topic, in addition to listening carefully, we have
17 also tried to share our view of the benefits that
18 this project will bring to the area.

19 Across the board, whether they like
20 this project, have no strong opinion, or would prefer
21 that the project go away, everyone in this community
22 has always treated me and our wider project team with
23 respect and an open ear.

24 A willingness to listen, exchange
25 views, hear me out, and of course, share their

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2 opinions in every direction. I and the project team
3 sincerely appreciate the decency that this community
4 has shown us since day one.

5 It is an indication of the strong
6 character of the people of Glen and Montgomery County
7 and their willingness to listen and participate in
8 this development process. Thank you.

9 A.L.J. JOSEPH: Thank you for your
10 comment. All the registered speakers have now
11 spoken, thank you all for coming. And I know it's
12 hard to stand up in front of a crowd sometimes, but
13 we appreciate your comment, and they will be
14 reviewed.

15 I want to remind you one last time
16 that anyone wishing to make a written comment may do
17 so until five p.m. on Friday, May 16th, 2025, and
18 information is on the sheets in the back. Thank you
19 all very much, we are off the record.

20 (The hearing concluded at 8:51 p.m.)
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1 5/28/2025 - ConnectGen Montgomery County, LLC - 23-02972

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 125, 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 5th day of September, 2023.

12

13 DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, Reporter

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A	
A-K-N-E-R 15:6	29:16 31:4 33:5 37:22 47:23
A-R-K-E-N-R-I-D-E-R 90:22	48:14 54:12 65:6,13,21 69:23
A-U-L 25:14	71:22 76:24 77:22,25 78:3
A.L.J 1:20,21 2:3 4:20 12:3,7	82:10,16 90:9 91:5 94:6,8
12:13,16,20 13:22 14:5,7	101:13,19 102:9,14
17:14 20:2 22:20 23:5,8 25:4	AcreValue 102:2
25:11 26:7,15,18,20 28:23	act 15:16 23:20 46:23 71:7
29:3,10 31:25 34:18 35:11	77:20 112:17
38:3 39:18,22,25 40:4,6,9,12	Action 71:11
41:17 42:2,7,10 45:9,12,15,19	actions 74:19
45:23 46:6,9 48:25 49:5,8,12	active 25:17 94:5
49:14,17,19,24 50:3,17,21,24	actively 71:17
52:19 53:5 56:11 58:13 61:6	activity 96:10
62:11 63:14 66:23 70:11 73:13	actual 54:25 97:9
75:15,20 78:21 79:9,12 81:21	add 10:9 67:25
83:17,20 84:16,19 85:2,6,10	added 107:9
85:12,23 86:8,12 87:3 89:22	addition 4:12 124:16
89:25 90:14 92:22 95:2,7	additional 6:13 71:14 78:9
98:13,15 100:13,23 101:4	Additionally 33:3
103:19,22 104:7,10 105:18,25	address 6:9,14,15 9:6 30:14
106:3 109:15,18 111:23 114:14	55:13 56:20 84:9
114:18,21 116:21 120:2,5,9,12	addressed 74:7,17 84:10 90:24
120:18,22 122:19 125:9	105:15
A.P.E 96:22	adhere 13:24 74:14 75:9
A.V 14:13	Administrative 2:17,19
abide 117:12	administratively 76:13
ability 11:24 15:19 73:12	adopt 9:16
able 21:25 22:3 24:23 31:21	adopted 65:20
37:18 52:6 55:25 70:20,24	advance 107:3
78:16 98:5,8 109:16 116:19	advanced 66:11 91:3
absolutely 9:23 69:11	advantage 56:3 76:16 89:2
abundant 66:7 79:24	advising 4:24
academic 7:21	Advocates 63:19
accept 57:5 99:22 110:14	aesthetics 43:21
accepted 94:22	affect 16:3 82:18
accepts 69:2	afford 36:5 118:15
access 33:11,13,15 91:14	afraid 60:17
accommodate 41:14	Africa 113:10
account 91:16	afterward 96:2
accounting 65:4 67:15	ag 79:14 82:22 94:17,20
accumulative 84:7	age 29:20 110:10
accurately 8:8	Agelson 96:18
achieve 33:7	agency 62:6 63:5
acknowledge 47:10 63:13	ago 9:22 23:19,25 28:7 44:14
acknowledges 71:9	61:20 103:20 113:25
acquainted 87:16	agrarian 31:6
acre 18:22 117:7	agree 22:6 24:4,6 80:24 111:12
acres 15:11 16:24 18:24 22:15	124:15
	Agreeing 110:24
	agreement 25:21

agricultural 5:18 10:16 11:13 15:17 31:5 34:15,16,23 44:13 55:15 60:6 77:22 79:7 89:20 agriculture 31:13 60:6 70:22 72:12 82:9 88:23 101:12 agriculture- 70:16 agronomists 93:12 ahead 26:12 29:11 45:15 79:9,10 87:7 121:23 Aid 88:24 air 80:21 96:22 100:22 Albany 32:10 41:16 108:24 alive 27:2 28:16 61:12 allergic 20:24 allow 30:4 92:20 107:23 109:3 allowed 13:20 58:9 allowing 40:14 alls 119:15 Alpha 121:2 alternative 87:11 alternatives 93:8 Amazonian 113:24 ambient 57:7 America 59:25 60:4 64:16 113:11 American 23:10 26:22 69:13 96:7 Americans 96:9 Amish 30:16,18 31:6,7 36:9 72:21 76:9 78:15,18 83:3 89:13 amount 8:11 18:4 19:12 47:19 65:8 69:11 82:18,19 83:10 92:3 99:22 amplification 14:18 Amsterdam 5:7 amusing 81:9 analysis 102:11 ancestors 112:15 Andras 61:7 Andrea 17:15 29:13 Andreas 29:6 50:5 Andrew 109:25 122:20,21,22 animal 67:19 animals 36:10 47:13,15,17,18,22 47:25 48:6,10,16 57:8 73:10 94:9 115:7,8 annually 65:7 answer 6:21 22:11 59:21 119:20 119:25 123:16 answering 86:2 answers 120:16	anti-solar 18:12,12 anti-stick 21:4,6 anybody 57:23 anymore 52:3 81:7,13 anyways 94:14 apologies 38:5 apologize 87:4 apparently 38:25 appears 84:5 applaud 19:3 applause 8:17 apple 115:11 apples 27:23 60:8 applicable 46:17 applicant 5:12 13:2 32:20 33:8 34:3 applicants 16:7 application 1:8,8 2:7 3:5 5:2 5:11 6:5,8,25 7:25 83:23 104:18 applications 6:2 applied 46:21 apply 46:20 appreciate 9:6 45:20 52:12 58:7 58:7,8 60:23 120:5,6 125:3,13 approach 8:3 56:4 66:13,18 102:22 appropriate 17:2 approvals 33:9 approve 26:6 approved 105:17 approximately 29:16 April 5:10 aptly 15:16 archaeological 95:14,23 96:2 archaeology 95:15 97:14,25 archeological 96:16 archeology 95:20 area 32:22 36:19,21 70:23 83:10 96:22 115:10,13 124:18 areas 15:18 43:12 74:15 91:10 93:20 argument 98:9 Arizona 51:16 92:15 arrays 54:2 Article 1:11 2:9 ashamed 28:15 aside 40:19 41:15 asked 118:12 asking 34:12 44:17 72:19 112:16
---	--

aspect 61:11,13 90:23
aspects 32:15 47:13
ass 11:25
assault 70:8
assert 23:13
assess 11:25 103:23
assessment 103:3
asset 54:5,9
assigned 2:18,20
associated 110:15 126:8
assume 13:23 22:14
assure 38:17
attacks 28:13
attempted 11:23
attended 74:6
attending 110:11
attention 9:23 64:3
attest 79:16
attractive 11:15
attributes 11:14
audio 87:6
authority 23:15
autonomy 23:21 55:21
available 14:13
average 43:5,15 80:2
avoiding 71:13
awake 72:3
awarded 69:8
aware 7:17 15:22 89:3 106:5

B

B 15:5 96:23
B-A-R-G-S-T-E-D-T 105:24
B-A-R-R- 122:21
B-U- 61:9
bachelor's 68:9
back 7:24 14:10,11,11 29:15
 36:19 44:13 45:21 52:7 60:17
 76:18 77:18 78:12,12 85:23
 89:4 93:10,16 100:15 104:4
 105:16 112:21 122:5 125:18
backed 71:21
backgrounds 58:25
backs 99:15
backup 65:24
backwards 41:13
backyard 119:13
bad 27:7,11 28:4 81:2,3 86:14
Bakner 8:23 14:23,24 15:3 17:14
balanced 66:17

ban 18:16
bandied 19:9
bank 109:12
Bargstedt 100:16 105:19,21,24
 106:2,4 109:16
barn 65:11
barns 59:22
Barrett 109:25 120:24 122:20,20
 122:21,21,22
based 16:12 43:6 55:4 56:17
 57:12,18 70:17
basic 32:14 33:22
basically 32:14 79:21 96:3,3,4
 96:13 97:13
basis 21:11 55:15,23 106:11
batteries 64:13 65:24
battery 55:13
Battisti 109:25 120:23,25 121:2
bays 28:22
bear 4:22 31:20 69:2
bears 48:7
beautiful 24:18 44:16 47:15
 51:7,19 52:13 66:16 70:25
 90:12 108:16,19 114:24 117:8
beauty 59:14
Beaver 5:9
began 30:17 55:15 102:21
begged 109:8
beginning 12:25 14:14 15:8
 123:10
begins 123:22
behalf 4:16 25:15 32:10
beliefs 30:12
believe 26:16 30:10 59:7 69:19
 84:10
believing 117:8
Bellinger 26:9,11 34:19,20,21
belong 39:5 114:6
benefit 28:5 51:9 53:12 116:6
benefiting 69:16
benefits 16:9 19:20,22 46:24
 53:17 124:17
bent 41:13
bentonite 74:23
Bessent 108:25
best 14:22 20:14 22:12 25:2
 31:21 54:15 59:10 71:23 96:17
 101:4,15 108:13 111:10,19
 123:19
betrayal 114:4

better 4:6 24:23 26:18,18,20
 42:5 44:11 52:8 58:5 89:21
 92:21 95:16 99:19 112:17
beyond 96:11 109:3
big 60:13 82:21 88:10,12 91:23
bigger 47:24
biggest 33:21 40:13
bill 27:24 38:15 107:8
bills 36:13 106:25 109:2
birds 47:22 51:7 57:8 58:3
bit 35:3 62:19 80:8 88:14 97:24
blame 72:10,10
Bless 24:4
blessed 68:17
blight 13:11
blinders 115:16
blocked 60:14 70:7
blue 66:10
board 9:15 17:21,23 18:15,15
 19:5 22:22,24 44:23 105:16
 124:19
body 63:7
bond 39:12,14
bonded 48:20,22
bonding 39:7,8,9 44:22 45:8
 48:21
Bonnie 90:18 100:16,21 105:24
bonus 121:22
books 106:23
bordered 91:11
boring 74:20,21,23
born 67:6
borrow 112:15
bottom 14:10 56:3
boy 15:6
Bravo 121:2
break 43:23 52:11 53:11 68:14
 85:16
breaks 21:8 70:16,21 73:2
breakthroughs 22:9
breath 80:20
breathe 60:10 113:19
Bridge 84:5
briefly 95:14
bring 42:10 59:13 61:10 124:18
bringing 122:5
Broadalbin 44:23,24
broker 42:19
brought 77:20 84:24
bucolic 69:20

Bucsinszky 50:6 58:15 61:7,9
 62:20
buddy 21:3
budgets 10:16
Buffalo 121:11
buggy 30:24
build 38:24 60:16 66:14 71:8
 92:16
building 72:23 99:8 122:9
buildings 11:13 51:14
built 43:13 51:25 57:3 59:6
 73:23 74:2 84:2 92:10 107:15
 113:7,9
bump 20:4
burden 54:10 69:3
burdensome 11:9 24:4,13,25
 40:20,22 46:22 77:16
buried 116:4 121:15
burning 65:19
bury 121:20
bus 36:6
business 25:14 35:2 41:24 42:15
 42:20 53:4 66:4 72:23 73:18
 80:22 84:23 108:3 110:12
 124:7
businesses 30:22 31:10 70:19
 82:9,18,24
Busy 5:9
Butch 26:9,11 34:20 38:11 80:24
butterflies 48:8
buy 29:21 61:4 82:19
buyers 43:19
buying 94:19
buzzword 60:7
bylaws 116:17

C

C-H-A-P-L-I-N 49:14
C-O-L-E 32:9
C-O-N-F-U-R 40:2
C-O-O- 56:15
C-O-U-T- 100:21
C-O-U-T-U-R-E 40:3,5
C-S-I-N-S-Z-K-Y 61:10
C.E.S 64:9
C.L.C.P.A 64:9 65:20 66:3 71:18
C.R.M 95:19 97:7
cabinet 30:25
cadmium 113:16
CAFM 67:18

cakes 11:8	challenge 64:17 103:13
calculation 65:3	challenges 57:14
calf 70:4	chance 19:16
California 58:2	change 15:15 19:12,15 37:9
call 8:3 41:14 42:13 55:16	43:19 47:12 50:20 59:8 66:21
67:22 107:2,7 108:6,11 112:24	69:9 72:12 80:23 115:10
114:2	changed 92:14,21 102:17 123:8
called 8:15 83:25 84:4 119:24	changes 37:8
120:16	changing 116:17
calling 7:11 63:3,5	chaos 77:19
calls 123:15	Chaplin 41:20 45:14,17,20 46:4
camera 37:11	46:7,10 49:3,7,10,11,12,13,15
Canada 5:9	49:16,18,22
Canajoharie 84:12	character 11:11 15:12 59:8
cancer 117:20,21	125:6
cap 23:9	charm 60:16
capacity 64:25 65:4 78:5	check 14:3,7
caption 126:5	Chelsea 109:24 116:23,25
capture 8:8	chemicals 38:20 105:9
carbon 16:9 54:18 65:17 71:12	cherish 37:3
77:25	chief 121:10
card 7:8,13 85:24 110:4	child 59:23
cards 15:25 110:2	children 36:6 41:12 44:20 69:3
care 47:17 81:2,2,3 94:7 99:3,3	81:13 98:22 112:15,21 117:3
112:9	117:13 118:9
carefully 62:23 124:16	China 64:25 113:9
carnival 48:8	chip 88:20
Carolina 109:11	Chobani 109:7
carry 54:10 113:2	choice 94:10 118:14 119:18
case 6:11,17 16:11 64:10 75:24	choices 104:6 112:13,22 114:7
93:11	choose 44:20
cases 17:3 76:15	choosing 113:6
cast 40:19	chord 62:5
cause 117:20 126:4	chose 93:8
caused 16:13 113:23	chosen 69:18
causes 89:8 118:3	Christian 1:23 126:3,13
cease 10:10	citation 53:23
ceasing 10:11	cited 93:18,23
cemetery 97:21	citizen 61:23
center 41:11	citizens 76:5 77:14
centers 88:21	citizenship 61:21
Central 60:2 77:7,8,15	city 22:15 98:24,24 108:25
century 66:8 96:11 97:18	claims 18:9
ceremonies 99:13	Clark 67:6 100:17 110:6
certain 29:25	class 93:5 119:17
certainly 47:16	classification 102:13,24 103:5
certify 126:3	103:21
cetera 96:13 104:24	classify 102:23
chain 60:19	Claude 78:22 81:23
Chairman 17:22,24	clay 33:25 57:13

clean 8:7 22:5 39:10 54:21	34:25 81:16 116:23 118:3
cleaned 21:10,12	125:11
cleaner 71:8	commenced 2:2
cleaning 39:16	comment 1:16 3:4,20 4:4,13,18
clear 51:20 68:15 77:25 79:6	7:19 25:5 29:7 32:2,7,16
clearing 33:7	34:11 38:4 39:19 41:22 45:10
clearly 8:4,7	49:20 52:20 58:14,18 61:7
clerk 97:6	67:3 70:12 73:14 78:22 81:22
client 63:22	83:21 85:13 89:23 90:15,20
climate 15:14 19:12,15 23:19	95:8 98:15 100:14,20 104:8
46:22 55:5,10 63:19,20 66:21	105:19 114:15 116:22,24
71:6,11 72:12	122:20 125:10,13,16
clock 7:18	comments 3:4 4:12,15 6:15,17,17
close 8:4 14:9,15,16 45:24,25	6:23 7:4,15 17:12 33:11 34:19
86:22 91:17	35:12 38:10 49:21 56:12 63:15
closely 101:9	66:24 75:16 76:3 78:9 85:4,6
closer 42:2 50:16 86:23	85:8 92:23 111:24
closest 93:19	commercial 43:4 118:5
closing 111:16 118:16	commitment 110:14
club 60:2,3	common 97:6
Co-chair 75:24	Commune 23:20
CO2 89:18	communicative 83:16
coating 21:4,4,6,8 113:20	communities 23:22 25:19 31:8,20
code 33:13	76:16 89:13 99:15
codified 103:11	community 4:7 5:18 9:24 11:11
CoGen 37:17	13:17 16:10,12 23:20 24:10
coincidence 84:8	29:16 30:17,19 31:6 46:23
coinciding 102:19	53:2,8,10,12 55:22 60:22,25
cold 83:2	68:5,23 69:18 70:15,17 71:6
Cole 17:15 32:2,6,8,9	71:22 72:5 73:21 74:5,7 77:13
collateral 30:8 41:9	77:17,20 82:7 89:13 117:8
colleagues 123:18	122:13 123:11 124:21 125:3
collecting 10:5	compact 65:2
college 36:19 110:11	compacted 54:17 93:13
Colliers 121:9	compaction 16:17
colonial 96:6,10	companies 9:23,24 10:13,18 11:5
color 114:2,3	13:19 57:18 83:12 84:21 87:22
colored 62:22	company 36:15,22 49:4 53:17
combating 19:15	60:24 82:6 83:8 84:2,3 97:7
come 8:13,16,22 10:13 14:13	113:22 122:24,25 123:8
17:15 22:3 24:20 26:10 27:23	compensation 18:8
28:10 32:5 36:19,23 38:14	complaints 69:25
41:21 42:17 45:13 50:6 53:16	complete 8:2 23:21 76:13 83:24
57:12 58:16,24 60:8,19 66:25	completely 40:24 72:15 117:4
78:12,16,23 79:2 86:4,14	118:19
90:16,18 98:12,18 100:19,25	compliance 5:24 67:18
104:4 109:22,24 115:10,13	comply 11:6 33:12 46:17
116:18	complying 16:7,8
comes 56:25 107:5 113:14	components 104:15,16,25 105:3,6
coming 10:23 14:17 21:18 22:23	105:12

comprehensive 101:17	conserve 18:19
comprising 102:12	consider 43:6 92:4,20
conceptual 17:5	considerable 83:10
concern 57:12	consideration 58:10 83:12 96:6
concerned 57:20,23 66:5	considered 24:9 40:20,22 62:23
concerns 4:25 43:20 56:21 58:11	62:25 77:14
74:7 87:18 95:22 97:25	considering 6:24
concluded 125:20	consistent 15:11
conclusion 8:17	consistently 15:9
concrete 44:2	consisting 126:7
conditioning 100:22	constantly 68:21 69:25
conditions 3:9,12 5:3 6:9,25	constituents 30:12
46:14,16 55:4	constitution 23:17
conducted 95:23 102:11	construct 1:12 2:11 3:6
conduits 74:25	constructing 53:15
confirmed 101:23	construction 3:13 13:14,15
Confure 32:3,3 39:19,20	16:14,17 25:22 41:5 75:9
connect 44:4	104:17 105:2 124:13
ConnectGen 1:1,9 2:1,7 3:1,5	consumes 18:23
4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1	consuming 66:14
11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1	consumption 72:18
17:1 18:1,8 19:1,4,21,25 20:1	consumptive 114:9
21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1	contacted 118:10
27:1 28:1 29:1,20 30:1 31:1	contained 46:16 102:9
32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1	contains 6:7
38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1	contaminates 38:12
44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1	contamination 43:22
50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1	contaminations 57:19
56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1	contempt 23:22,24
62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1	context 10:18
68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1	continue 9:25 12:6 53:6 62:18
74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1,7 78:1	69:4 81:11,17,19 89:10 110:23
79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1	111:6,20
85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1,5	continued 111:18
90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1	continuing 67:8
96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1	contract 21:23
101:1 102:1,7 103:1 104:1,19	contract's 122:7
105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1	contracted 29:20
110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1	contractor 75:9
115:1 116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1	contracts 19:4,21 112:5 122:4
120:1 121:1 122:1 123:1,2,17	contrary 18:8 111:13
124:1 125:1 126:1	control 23:14,18 30:3 67:17
ConnectGen's 113:22	121:11
Connecticut 36:24 121:12	controlled 74:2 75:7
connection 40:14	convening 3:19
consequences 31:8 43:11 54:20	conversion 71:13,18
79:25 112:13	cooling 87:15
Conservancy 64:2	Coonradt 41:21 52:21 56:13,14
conservation 64:5 101:23 103:2	56:15
103:11	copies 5:6 6:8

copy 7:23
core 61:15
corn 79:19 82:25 103:3,24 108:9
corner 13:6 97:19
corners 121:21,24
corporate 36:15 62:8
corporation 41:14
Corps 26:25
correct 49:16,17 51:11 76:14
 123:17
corridors 64:6
cost 16:7 23:22 37:7 39:10,13
 89:9 108:4 113:3
costs 31:20 118:16
Council 71:11
counties 102:4
countless 68:10 123:15
country 49:4 52:13,15 60:9 62:2
 66:10 69:20 112:25
county 1:1,9,15 2:1,8,14 3:1,5
 4:1 5:1,25 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1
 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1
 16:1 17:1,23 18:1 19:1,23
 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1
 26:1,2 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1
 31:1 32:1 33:1,9 34:1 35:1
 36:1,2 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1
 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1
 47:1 48:1,3 49:1 50:1 51:1
 52:1,24 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1
 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1,11,14
 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1
 67:1 68:1 69:1,9 70:1 71:1
 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1,25
 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1
 83:1 84:1,6 85:1 86:1 87:1,14
 87:25 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1
 92:1 93:1,2,18,22,23 94:1,3
 94:16 95:1 96:1 97:1,3 98:1
 99:1 100:1 101:1,12 102:1,3,7
 103:1 104:1,19 105:1,5 106:1
 106:13,20 107:1 108:1 109:1
 110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1
 115:1 116:1,15 117:1 118:1
 119:1 120:1 121:1 122:1 123:1
 123:5 124:1,6,10 125:1,6
 126:1
couple 4:21 12:21 79:18
courage 63:11,12,13
course 115:9 124:25

court 2:23 8:8 14:19 112:11
Couture 38:5 39:19,21,23 40:3,3
 40:4,5,8,8,9,10,13 90:18
 100:14,21,21 101:3,6 103:20
 103:23 104:9
covered 54:17 60:5
covering 59:20 72:13 73:3
cows 109:4
crap 52:5
crazy 81:19
create 94:13 110:20
created 11:19 30:22 103:2
Credit 107:2
Creek 83:25 84:13
crew 121:10
crippling 67:25
critical 71:12
critically 75:12
crop 48:14 67:15 70:2 82:13
crops 60:20 82:16 97:12
Crossing 91:22
crossroads 59:7
crowd 125:12
crude 113:25
cry 119:14,15
cultural 95:19 96:7
cumulative 57:10 84:21 93:17
Cuomo 118:23
Cuomo's 102:19
current 66:6 103:9
currently 16:22 33:2,12
custom 70:8
cut 77:25 121:21,24
cutting 99:13 108:10

D

D 100:4
D-O-U 114:17
D-O-U-G-L-A-S-S 114:20
D-Y-K-E-M-A-N 79:5
D.E.C 16:23,24 70:2 74:25 108:6
D.M.M 2:5
dad 28:7
daily 5:8 44:16 106:11
dairies 30:25
dairy 30:18 67:6,8 68:7,7,9
 73:16 79:25 80:2,21 106:13,20
 106:22 110:8
damage 41:9
damaged 104:14,16,23 105:11

dangerous 105:22	DeLaval 73:17
Daniela 100:17 109:20 111:24 112:2	delays 8:18
Danielle 1:23 126:3,13	deliver 123:17
dash 2:6	delivering 55:21
data 88:21	demanding 9:20
database 102:3	demands 55:2 110:17
DATE 1:17	demonstrated 16:5
dated 32:21	denied 15:23 30:9
Dawn 1:20 2:19	dense 65:3
day 47:14 51:20 67:12 72:19 78:13 125:4 126:11	density 64:24
day-to-day 57:11,13	Department 1:3 2:17 101:12
days 20:20 51:23,23 79:18 88:19 100:8 113:25	departments 33:18
de 21:17,17	depend 104:6
deal 72:10 102:20	depreciation 41:8 54:9
dealer 84:23	deprive 66:7
dealers 82:21	derogate 21:17
dealing 69:25 115:5	Desert 92:15
Death 22:13	deserve 52:11 61:3,4
deaths 58:6	deserves 55:17
decade 43:12,12 95:20	design 1:12 2:11 3:12 5:16 57:21 76:15
decades 54:14 88:8 95:17	designating 25:21
decarbonizing 64:23	designation 103:12
decency 125:3	designed 15:15 103:8,23
decide 83:3	desire 23:12
decided 47:2,7 83:13	desk 106:25
decision 6:5 62:23 79:21 110:25	Despite 111:21
decisions 56:18	destiny 23:14
deck 86:15	destitute 68:16
decline 53:22,25	destroy 66:16 111:12
decommission 1:13 2:11	destroyed 44:4 104:16
decommissioning 31:18 34:12 55:13	destroying 66:21
decry 77:18	destruction 114:23
dedicated 105:8	detail 33:17 105:15
dedication 67:8	details 4:14
deeds 112:6	determine 31:21 103:7
deemed 83:24	develop 1:12 2:10
deeply 53:2	developed 68:20 117:24
deer 47:21,24	developer 40:21 59:5 77:19
deficient 76:2	developers 71:21
definite 95:22	developing 102:22 122:25
definitely 96:25 115:9	development 41:11 55:18 91:23 122:23 123:3 124:12 125:8
definition 31:12	developments 24:25
degradation 21:16 54:11 76:21	devour 114:10,10
degrade 21:13,13,16	diabetes 118:4
degree 63:23 68:9	diagrams 33:4
Deichmans 28:11	Diane 100:16 104:12
	dictate 81:8
	die 58:3 112:9

died 28:14	door 59:12 83:22
difference 19:16 88:10 102:16	dot 61:3
different 7:6 27:4 38:20 117:20	doubt 42:23
difficult 91:14	Doug 32:8
dig 97:15	Douglas 17:15
Dillenbeck 9:9	Douglass 109:22,24 114:15,15,16 114:17,20,22
dinners 37:2	downs 35:3
direct 53:12 54:3	downstate 51:11,13 93:21
direction 125:2	Downtown 70:7
directional 67:23 74:19	dozen 67:20
directly 4:9 42:25 71:10 90:24 121:10	dozens 30:22 106:12
director 2:21 3:15,21 32:9 95:21	draft 3:9,11 5:2 6:9,25 17:11 46:14,17
dirt 94:22	drained 101:21 102:15
disappearing 104:3	drastic 102:16
disclosure 18:6	drastically 92:14
discount 89:6 118:16	drawing 105:16
discredit 69:11	dream 110:10
discredited 70:5	dreaming 59:23
discriminatory 19:2	dreams 44:7
discuss 4:3	dressed 55:19 113:5
disfiguring 24:24	drilled 44:2
dismantled 105:7	drink 16:20 113:19
dismissed 24:2,8 70:5	drive 31:9 32:22 36:11 42:24 76:2 119:9 121:18
dismissing 47:6	driven 53:17
displaced 113:12	drives 60:9
disposal 55:10 104:21	driveways 33:4 108:4
disposition 30:6	driving 36:6
disregard 34:4	drop 118:17
disrupt 60:21	dry 100:5
Disruption 54:18	due 11:22 21:14 83:9
distance 33:3	dug 97:13
distances 33:8	dumb 27:8
distant 23:15	dump 24:10,11 80:18
district 94:17,20 117:8	dumping 31:14
diversification 68:12	Dykeman 67:2 78:23 79:4,5,11,13
divide 107:14	
divided 70:15	E
doing 26:17 36:8 37:23 38:2 52:9 71:25 72:8 81:14 107:10 108:12 123:11,18	E 63:18
dollar 43:17 91:21 92:2 99:8 107:3	E-G-E-L-S-T-O-N 58:20 67:5 110:7
dollars 10:8 37:20,21 69:7 108:2 118:15 120:21	E-T-T 122:22
domain 116:18	E.M.F.T 115:6
don't 50:19,24	eagles 48:6 51:6
donation 88:25	ear 123:23 124:23
Donna 26:10,11 35:14	earlier 87:21
	early 117:24 118:6 123:5
	earth 19:13 113:3,4 114:6

easier 35:3
easily 75:13
east 73:24 75:7 93:20
easy 29:19 61:3,4 94:10 110:13
110:25
eat 48:17
echo 114:7
ecological 54:19
economic 5:17 76:21
economics 79:22
economy 53:9 55:20
ecosystem 54:12
ecosystems 64:5
educate 19:8
effect 45:2 57:10,23,24,24
96:23
effectively 11:21
effects 118:6
efficiency 20:15 116:5
Egelston 50:5 58:14,17,19,20
66:24 67:3,4,5 100:17 109:19
110:5,6,7
Eggleston 58:18
eggs 60:9
eight 2:9 80:6 85:18,19 86:18
108:2
eighteen 18:17 20:19 32:15
eighteens 101:20
eighty 35:21 93:4
eighty-eight 101:14
Eighty-four 26:24
eighty-three 29:18
either 84:11 91:13
elect 46:20
elected 7:11 9:13 40:17
electric 1:6 2:22 3:16,22,25
5:14 10:2,4 66:6 74:20
electrical 63:23
electrician 67:14
electricity 48:23 65:7,17,20,23
72:21 79:23 89:15
electronically 6:18
elements 115:19
eleven 21:20,21,24 22:2
eliminates 71:13
else's 44:10
email 6:9
emails 123:15
embarrass 27:4
embraced 63:11 68:22

emissions 71:7
emotion 20:11
emotional 71:5
employees 67:21 68:3 82:3,4,19
employment 38:17
empowered 11:19
enabled 54:22
encourage 11:5 19:7
end-of-life 55:10
endangered 48:5,10
endeavor 29:19
ended 95:20
ends 6:22 86:18 100:18 106:15
106:22 107:11 109:21
energy 1:4,10,14 2:8,12,22 3:8
3:15,21 4:2 5:14 9:23 10:4,13
10:17 11:2,5 17:25 18:4,6,16
18:16 19:8,10,13,15,19,25
24:2 54:22 55:22 56:7,8 63:19
64:8,24 65:3,9,14 66:7,20
72:16,20 73:23 74:10 75:25
79:22 87:11 88:15 111:10
114:4
enforcement 74:19 75:6 76:22
engineer 32:12
engineering 32:9,10 63:23 121:9
English 76:9
enhanced 23:16
enjoy 69:20 108:15,20
enjoyment 30:3
enormous 43:10 69:11
enshrined 23:16
ensure 9:14 17:2
ensures 31:19
enthusiasts 64:12
entire 12:17 19:14 30:23 67:7
67:24 93:3
entities 87:19
entitled 110:19
entity 56:5
environment 19:20 46:24 47:13
53:9 55:20 73:11 115:8
environmental 3:24 5:17 16:12
20:21 21:9,14 54:11 76:21
77:13
environmentalist 63:24
environmentally 105:7
environments 48:11
Epps 117:2
equal 85:7

Equally 5:23
equipment 16:15 31:15 67:16,18
 82:19 84:23 108:4
erase 103:24
erased 101:10
eroding 53:21
erosion 16:17 41:5
especially 19:23 55:9
essential 19:15 66:8
estate 42:19,21,23
estimate 99:25
estimates 55:3
et 96:13 104:24
Evan 41:20 52:23
evening 2:3,15 7:7 9:5,10 34:20
 42:16 50:10 52:22 63:18 95:9
 98:17 101:6
evenings 4:17
everybody 21:22 22:19 35:9 38:7
 80:17 108:21 120:17
everybody's 114:22
everyone's 41:6
evils 19:10
exact 32:24 71:18 88:13
examined 5:22
example 48:13 117:22
excavations 97:10
exceed 33:14,16
excellent 68:7,7
exchange 124:24
excited 27:24
exclude 30:5
excluded 97:2
exclusively 15:17
excuse 3:3 6:10 27:9 62:12
 109:19
Executive 3:15,21
exemptions 10:5
exist 10:10,11 33:2
existed 106:18
existence 11:20
existing 43:20 97:12
Exit 32:23
expand 109:3,9
expanding 109:8
expansion 66:18,19
expect 69:3
expected 68:20
expedite 8:10
expenses 36:13 37:23

experience 18:5 32:12 43:14
 61:19 87:5 121:5
expertise 75:19
expiration 12:8
expired 12:4 49:2 85:3 103:22
 120:13,15
explain 28:17
explained 13:3
exploitation 113:5
export 78:6
exposed 16:15 117:21
extensive 5:12
extra 101:5
extreme 18:25 66:14
extremely 68:17
eye 115:18
eyes 112:12

F

fabs 88:21
face 31:8 123:15,15
Facebook 30:14
faces 59:18
facilities 3:25 4:2 10:2 12:2
 13:9 43:5 46:24 74:5 75:6
facility 1:10,14 2:9,13 3:8,13
 4:24 5:13 13:11 32:24 46:15
 46:21 73:23,25 74:2,10 76:25
 83:25 102:8,12 105:8
fact 6:6,12,14 16:4 36:23,24
 54:24 56:17 57:17 58:8 63:25
factor 64:25 65:4
factories 28:18
factors 20:21 21:9
facts 35:15 37:25 76:7,20
fading 101:10
Fahy 24:15
fail 84:20
failed 74:12
failing 66:3,3
fair 69:3 119:8
Fairlife 109:7
falcons 48:8
fall 31:12
falsehoods 19:9
familiar 18:5 58:25 59:18
families 30:19,20 40:22 54:4
 90:9 94:12
family 25:24 27:12 29:14 36:20
 36:25 37:7 51:4 52:25 56:21

68:3,16,25 69:17 70:14,18 73:18 110:11 117:17 119:5,17 family's 67:8 68:4 famous 64:15 fantastic 24:5 far 19:8 36:11 44:20 64:10 74:16 91:4 96:7,22 farm 16:15 18:19 27:20,21 36:9 51:4 59:24 60:4,9 67:8,22 69:5,18,24 73:17,24 79:15,16 80:3 81:7 82:23,23 88:24 98:4 99:22 107:2 110:9 111:4,6,17 117:5,14 118:8 farmed 29:17 farmer 27:15,18 67:6 68:7,8,25 70:17 73:17 106:20 108:6 110:8 farmers 28:10 36:4 47:17 48:14 52:10 59:2,12,25 60:3,23 68:5 68:21 69:4,9 70:21 72:9 79:24 89:20 94:6 106:22 114:5 115:13 116:7,8,10 118:21 124:8 farming 13:17 29:19 31:7,10 36:5,5 58:25 59:23 68:22 69:10 72:24,24 81:6,18 93:11 93:16 98:3 107:20 108:21 110:13 118:23 farmland 23:23 31:13 44:10 51:19 52:2 54:13 59:11 60:22 65:13 69:23 71:9,18,23 73:8 75:24 83:7,10 90:5,12 94:5 101:15 102:15,25 103:12,17,25 104:2 107:16 111:14 113:25 Farmland's 30:14 farms 30:18 36:8 59:19 69:13,13 80:5,13 93:6,7 99:14,18,19 100:10 103:15 106:6,13,17 109:3,9 115:5 116:8,10 118:5 121:11 Farrell 8:25 9:2 26:9,11,13,16 26:19,21 28:25 fart 27:9,9 fast 71:17 fatality 75:8,13 fault 119:2 feasibility 33:22 featured 60:13 fed 113:21 federal 10:5,8 54:23 69:12	feed 82:12 feedback 6:4 feeds 114:5 feel 56:19 72:9 90:5,7 108:14 109:6 110:19 116:8 feeling 62:3 feet 33:14,15 34:7,9,10 75:2 fell 74:8 FEMALE 20:9 fence 35:7 60:19 fenced 47:20 fertile 73:3 fertilizer 82:14 fewer 16:8 82:10,11,11,23,23 fiction 112:10 field 10:21 33:23 38:24 43:2 57:3 58:3 95:19,21 110:16 fields 16:13,18 31:5 38:20 43:13 44:24 45:2,5 59:22 70:10 89:19 107:18 115:15 116:4 121:6,14 fifteen 17:21 43:19 65:22 77:23 78:4 80:14 88:7 98:25 fifteen-minute 85:16 fifty 2:12 3:7 34:7,9 43:10,16 43:18 54:3 65:9,9 78:7 fifty-five 27:6 94:6,7 fifty-megawatt 65:5 fifty-seven 118:11 fifty-three 37:21 fight 10:20 28:2 76:17 fighting 28:15 52:17 79:17 figure 26:8 37:10 45:6 51:24 figured 25:8 fill 7:9 110:2,4 116:22 filled 7:8 16:16 77:10 105:4 filling 109:13 final 6:4 17:4 34:11 finally 66:11 financial 28:6 53:14 56:4 financially 19:20,22 68:2 76:13 find 6:14 80:16,24 97:5 118:3 finding 67:21 fine 95:4 finish 121:23 finished 12:18 99:10,11 fire 33:11,13,18 104:24 firm 15:3 first 7:12 8:12,22 9:2 25:22 26:17 29:23 42:16 51:19 53:12
--	--

56:22 59:14 73:7 87:9 106:19 108:10 116:5 123:4 124:8 firsthand 121:5 Fisher 41:21 52:21 56:12,15 fission 88:10 fit 65:11 91:24 five 6:18 17:23 18:20,22 21:17 28:6 30:20 33:14 34:5 43:8 75:2 80:6 88:7 108:2 123:19 125:17 fix 88:5 fixed 46:11 Flat 83:25 84:13 flattening 113:18 flooding 57:15 floor 110:5 Florida 51:17,25 64:2 73:16 115:20 flowers 48:16 flush 28:2 flyer 31:13 focus 64:2 90:22 focused 103:3 folks 4:21 9:2 13:23 14:13 29:2 29:4 40:7 41:18 45:13,14 52:20 56:12 61:7 62:11,12 66:2 75:16 76:25 78:15 85:4 85:14 86:15,17 95:2 107:6 109:25 116:22 follow 39:3 83:6 follow-up 74:18 follows 114:8 Fonda 1:19 24:16 Fonda-Fultonville 60:2 food 36:7 54:14 99:14,19,20 101:15 103:25 116:10 foot 18:20,22 24:14 33:16 34:6 121:19 footprint 43:10 54:2 88:17 force 81:5 forced 54:8 113:9 118:8,9,24 forces 106:18 Ford 88:12 foregoing 126:4,6 foreign 49:3 87:19 forest 77:25 forests 89:17 forever 59:8 117:9 forget 62:21 form 18:8 27:20 34:25 72:12	former 17:20 30:18 formerly 122:25 Fort 91:22 fortunate 79:18 forty 29:16 36:3 120:20 forty-five 54:16 103:18 forty-five-minutes 85:15 forty-four 85:19 forty-ninth 93:23 94:3 forty-two 58:24 forum 87:10 forward 4:19 77:6 fossil 65:19 113:22 found 6:11 43:3 112:17 119:14 founded 62:2 founding 23:12 61:25 four 29:17 35:23 36:7,18 40:25 65:6 fourth 91:3 110:7 fracking 64:9 fragile 64:23 free 16:9 28:10 48:23 65:17 frequent 123:14 fresh 60:9 80:21 Friday 6:19 125:17 friendly 116:10 friends 47:4 56:17 76:9 front 8:10,13,23 17:16 18:13 26:10 32:6 34:6 41:21 50:7 54:7 58:16 66:25 78:23 79:2 86:4,5 90:17,18,19 100:16 109:22,23 125:12 fuel 113:22 fuels 65:19 full 18:6 20:15 46:20 76:14 86:24 94:7 full-time 82:5 fully 26:4 123:6,24 Fultonville 9:9 20:6 77:17 117:6 funded 10:8 funding 54:6 70:24 71:17 funds 10:19 furniture 31:2 further 36:11 54:8 fusion 88:9 future 15:13 24:11 31:24 34:15 34:16 44:19 48:11 55:11,17 59:12,25 60:3 67:23 69:4 111:3 112:12 113:7 114:5
---	--

115:3	28:20 30:14,17 31:9,13,14
futures 104:6	32:11,14 36:2 40:15 42:16,21
G	
G-A-N-D-A-R-A 117:2	42:24 44:13,17 54:9 55:17
G.E 17:25 88:12	57:14 58:22,24 59:8 60:7,13
gallons 74:23	67:9 69:15 70:6,7 73:8 75:24
game 114:12	77:17 91:19 92:5,9 95:12 97:4
Gandara 109:25 116:23,24,25	100:6 101:16 104:13 106:19
117:2 120:3,7,10,14,20	110:8,8 123:4,15,23 124:9
Gary 38:8	125:6
gas 71:14	Glen's 11:3 15:13 19:16 31:7
gasoline 99:9	55:4 103:25
gastric 117:24	Glenn 9:13 48:21 51:3,4 53:2,14
gauges 28:19	Gloversville 5:7
gazebos 30:24	go 7:9 12:8 21:2 26:12 29:10,25
Gazette 5:8	36:17,18 38:22,23 45:7,15,21
gearing 66:11	47:3 52:7 53:16 54:10 78:12
General 91:21 92:3	79:9,10,12 80:15 82:5 87:7
generated 32:16	89:4,10 93:10,16 94:4 99:15
generating 3:8 10:2 72:16	99:20 105:16 110:4 113:15
generation 13:12 55:3 65:24	115:11,24 124:21
70:14 98:12 110:7 114:8	goals 15:15 94:2 123:9
generational 93:9	God 24:18 27:22 28:11 61:15
generations 31:24 62:24,25 69:4	God's 122:16
69:15 111:3 112:12	goes 20:17 122:8
gentlemen 2:4	going 8:12,16,20 13:23,25 14:25
geology 5:19	15:2 16:2 21:24 22:17 23:2,6
GERD 117:24	24:7 27:23 29:15 33:24 34:15
getting 7:24 45:24 60:5 68:9	36:19 37:6,13,21 38:16,22,23
70:22	39:10,15 46:11 47:3,23 50:5
giant 65:22 113:23	51:5,8,10 52:4,5,6 53:22 57:2
gifting 30:7	57:6 58:5 59:19 60:14,19,20
gifts 10:7	61:18 62:13,16 64:23 65:2
gigawatt 65:6,16	70:24 77:6,8,8,21 79:19 80:12
give 8:12 12:11,20 32:6 41:22	80:23 81:5,8,14 82:5 83:6
50:8 58:18 62:10 67:3 86:24	85:16 88:3,4,5,22 89:5 91:9
90:19 95:25 100:20 101:5	91:13 92:8,13,18 93:10,15
111:3 116:24	94:4,12,15,21 95:13,24 105:21
given 10:25 84:14 85:7 114:24	109:16 111:11,13 115:2,14,14
120:16	115:23 116:6,12 119:18,19
gives 59:15	122:3,6,7,7,18
giving 23:17 34:24 48:23 107:12	good 2:15 8:7 9:5 10:12 19:19
glad 108:13	21:20 27:7,10 28:4 34:20
glass 77:9 89:18	42:16 50:10 52:22 56:9 63:18
glasses 86:16	66:9,12 68:4 77:14 80:8 86:16
Glen 1:15 2:13 5:24 8:21 9:4,11	90:7 95:9 96:19 98:17 101:6
10:12,17 11:10,15,18,25 12:23	114:24 115:15 124:10
15:5,7 17:9,20,21 18:2,25	gorgeous 51:21
19:23 22:22 24:3,16,18 28:16	government 10:8 25:2 40:21
	69:12
	governments 23:18

governor 10:25 11:17 88:11
 102:19 118:23
graded 74:15
graduated 122:12
grandkids 35:23,24 36:17
granted 68:18
grants 69:8 89:2
grass 38:20
gratitude 112:21
great 35:24 45:17 56:8 108:22
 109:5
greed 114:4
green 27:22 37:18 54:22 55:19
 56:8 71:2,3 102:20 113:5,9,13
 113:18,21 114:2,4
greenhouse 71:14
Greenwashing 54:24
Greg 86:14 90:21
grew 36:25 44:15 94:11 107:19
grid 10:4 54:25 63:24 89:8,8
grief 112:21
ground 31:14 34:14 44:3 108:9
 121:15
groundwater 16:19
group 76:8
Groups 102:22 103:6
grow 13:8 31:22 41:12 88:22
 110:11 112:23 113:19
growing 93:4 101:15 117:14
grown 30:19
grows 59:23
growth 31:6
guaranteed 53:13
guardian 112:17
guess 39:16 79:5 84:23 97:17,25
 118:2 119:9 120:15,15 121:23
guide 102:25
guides 74:13
guy 36:24
guys 20:7 22:18,18 100:7 120:25

H

H- 90:21
H-A-U-S-E-R 29:13
H-A-Y-E-S 35:14
H-E-L-M-I- 75:22
H-E-R-N-I-G-L-E 38:9
habitat 65:14
Hagos 2:21 3:16,17,18
hail 88:3 104:23

hailstorms 87:24
half 67:20 87:15 106:6 107:8
 123:20,24
hall 32:20
Hamlet 58:22
hamlets 11:12
hand 49:22 62:15 66:17 99:13
hands 11:7 94:24
hang 14:25
Hanna 15:4
happen 7:25 37:14 52:4 92:8,13
 122:3
happened 57:16 108:23
happening 77:12 115:21 119:15
 120:4
happens 20:21 21:8,24,25 43:24
 59:21 60:4 61:5,18 87:23
happy 9:21,21 13:10 17:11,12
 27:24 78:16 86:7
hard 14:24 27:17 47:4 52:11
 59:19 74:9 101:8 106:15
 117:12 118:21,22 122:17
 125:12
hardware 121:17
Harkenrider 86:14 90:15,16,19
 90:21,21
harm 16:10,11
harnesses 30:25
harvesting 70:8 82:15,15
hate 50:6 70:15
hats 75:23
Hauser 17:15 29:6,9,12,13
hay 29:17,21 59:21 94:9 103:3
 103:24
Hayes 26:10,11 35:12,13,14
 96:20
hazard 55:11
heads 74:21
heal 112:23
health 5:20 40:18 117:15,18
hear 4:9 12:5 14:10,11,11,21
 19:11 20:8 26:17 29:5 35:16
 38:7 39:8 49:25 50:14,15
 56:15 57:8 59:9 70:21 114:19
 124:25
heard 74:18,18 76:3,20 79:7
 87:20 117:23
hearing 1:16 2:2 3:4,20 4:4,18
 4:19,22 6:2,20,22 8:10,18 9:7
 125:20

hearings 2:18 6:10
heart 24:5 28:13 29:2 44:12
 50:12 70:16,21 73:2 122:14
heartbeat 59:16
heavy 16:14 63:2 105:9
Helmin 67:2 75:16,17,18,22,22
help 19:16 34:24 76:13 111:5
 120:8,10
helped 28:12 111:17
helping 72:12 80:12
helps 4:5 6:4
Henry 1:21 2:16
Herald 5:7
herbicide 67:17
hereof 126:6
hereto 126:5
hereunto 126:10
heritage 81:19
Hernigle 38:4,7,8
Hi 20:7 40:8 45:14 56:14 70:13
 73:15 79:4 90:3 114:16
hidden 121:15
hides 54:24
high 19:4 25:24 51:14 73:23
 74:10 90:6 102:10 117:19
higher 62:9 66:6
highway 9:17 58:21
highways 119:9,10
hillside 38:19
hiring 25:19
Historian 75:23
historic 11:13 97:4
historical 58:22
history 96:4,8 103:10
hit 15:14 54:4 75:11 97:13
hitting 19:13
Hochul 88:11,24 118:22
hold 8:17 9:12 10:2 13:25 42:4
 42:9 50:4 62:16 84:5 112:11
holdings 10:16
hole 121:19
holiday 78:17
home 23:15 41:15 42:20 43:17
 44:10,14 53:23 76:20 80:16
 99:9 110:10 117:7,9 118:13,14
 119:7
homeowner 41:25 42:15
homeowners 43:20
homes 41:7,10 43:4,24 44:6
 53:25 54:4 96:5 99:6 107:15

107:17
homesteader 88:23
honestly 107:14
honey 31:3
Honor 26:14
honored 3:14
hook 89:6
hope 22:18 41:19 76:5 87:5
 88:25
hoped 62:7
horrific 108:8
horse 64:20
horses 29:18,22
hospitable 69:10
host 13:4 31:19 110:24
hot 11:8
hotels 94:16
hour 19:13
hours 65:6,16
house 99:23 118:19
households 68:3
houses 11:13 117:4
housing 70:4
How's 26:19
huge 15:17 76:25 77:4,5 91:2,20
 91:20 92:5 121:22
human 64:3
humanity 63:6
hundred 2:12 3:7 18:20,21,22,24
 22:14 25:16,25 28:22 30:20
 33:14 34:5,6,9 37:21 43:9,16
 47:23 54:3 65:4,5,6,22 73:18
 75:2 76:9,23 77:23,24 78:3,7
 80:5 88:19 91:5 93:14 101:13
 101:18 102:9 107:3 109:4
hunt 47:17
Hunter 91:22
hurting 116:7
husband 29:13,18 35:21 37:10
 58:23 67:6 117:3,10 118:20
husband's 29:14 51:4 69:17
husbandry 67:19

I

I- 32:22
I-E-T-R-O-W-I-C-Z 81:24
idea 22:2 61:17 86:17
ideal 55:4
ideas 68:10
identified 32:18,20,23 102:13

identify 8:6 103:17	89:7 104:22
identity 53:10	Ingersoll 56:22
ignore 40:14	inherit 112:14
imagine 77:7,10	inheritance 30:7
immediately 99:9	initial 30:19 96:15
immigrant 61:20	injured 75:12
impact 16:18 41:6 55:14 56:21	innovative 68:10
57:6,11 62:23 73:21 77:5	input 53:20 64:8
83:16 84:7,21 91:20 93:17	inputs 56:10
impacting 72:5	insects 48:15 115:7
impacts 5:18,20,22 16:12,13	inside 20:13 111:14
43:21 76:21 117:15,18 124:13	inspection 74:12
implementation 69:5	instability 56:4
implemented 18:15	installation 15:10
implementing 68:10,12	installations 54:25
import 103:17	installed 33:6 74:5
importance 101:22 102:15	instances 15:21
important 3:20 4:5,7 5:23 6:12	instrumental 89:15
23:4 61:12 97:3 103:7	insufficient 10:19
importantly 3:19 5:16	Int'l 126:8
impossible 10:23 67:21	intended 102:25 122:2
impressed 76:5	intensive 66:15
inaccessible 91:14	intent 123:22
incentives 10:6	intention 122:4
include 97:8	interchange 32:22
included 3:11 40:16	interest 62:8 81:4 82:8 107:9
includes 100:6	interesting 80:25
including 5:15,18 11:3,14 30:2	interference 23:19
inclusive 126:7	intermittent 64:24
income 29:21 34:25 81:15 93:9	intersection 32:25
111:6,6	intimate 116:18
incomes 81:16	introduced 109:2
incompatible 11:12	introduction 3:19 4:22
independence 88:16	invest 69:22
independent 72:7 80:15	invested 41:7
India 121:2,3	investing 25:20 68:11
Indian 65:15	investment 53:14 88:12
indication 125:5	investments 10:3
individual 98:7	involved 15:22 19:7 34:22 63:2
industrial 11:12 12:2 15:10	107:20
40:25 76:24	involving 66:13,18
industry 42:21 63:2 66:5 80:20	Irishman 27:8
80:22 81:3,11 118:23	irreversible 31:8
inefficient 10:9	Island 53:24
inevitable 41:8	islands 91:10
infiltration 33:24	issue 35:6 72:3,18 103:9 105:15
Infinity 82:15	issued 3:10 4:23
information 5:13 6:7,13 76:7,19	issues 4:6 5:21 6:4 20:25 21:2
123:16 125:18	21:14 24:24 32:18 33:21 54:19
infrastructure 55:11 64:4,4	57:12 76:22 80:9

issuing 46:13
it'd 37:14 92:6
items 30:14 31:11 57:4

J

J-O-H-N 17:19
J.F.K 64:18
J.F.K.s 64:15
James 1:21 2:16
January 103:10
jig 27:9
job 9:21 94:7
jobs 25:24 36:20 53:13 82:2
 94:13,14
John 8:23,24 17:18 22:6 24:4
Johnstown 1:18 112:3
joined 76:9
joke 75:8
Jonathan 90:17 95:8,11
Joseph 1:21 2:3,16 4:13,20 12:3
 12:7,13,16,20 13:22 14:5,7
 17:14 20:2 22:20 23:5,8 25:4
 25:11 26:7,15,18,20 28:23
 29:3,10 31:25 34:18 35:11
 38:3 39:18,22,25 40:4,6,9,12
 41:17 42:2,7,10 45:9,12,15,19
 45:23 46:6,9 48:25 49:5,8,12
 49:14,17,19,24 50:3,17,21,24
 52:19 53:5 56:11 58:13 61:6
 62:11 63:14 66:23 70:11 73:13
 75:15,20 78:21 79:9,12 81:21
 83:17,20 84:16,19 85:2,6,10
 85:12,23 86:8,12 87:3 89:22
 89:25 90:14 92:22 95:2,7
 98:13,15 100:13,23 101:4
 103:19,22 104:7,10 105:18,25
 106:3 109:15,18 111:23 114:14
 114:18,21 116:21 120:2,5,9,12
 120:18,22 122:19 125:9
Josh 8:24 25:13 38:14
Judge 2:17,19 3:18 4:13
judgment 63:3
Junell 32:4 41:23,24 42:14,14
 47:14
justice 77:13
justifiable 53:16
Justin 32:2 40:8,9

K

K 43:18

K-N-A-P-I-K 50:11
K.B 32:10
Karen 41:20 49:10
Kathy 88:11,24 118:22
keep 27:20,20 28:3,12 29:22
 38:20 43:16 59:19 81:6,14
 87:21 107:13 108:14 116:8
 122:2,9
Keith 50:6 58:16 63:15,17,18
kid 42:14
kids 35:23 36:16 37:5 93:5
 94:11 115:12
killling 106:17
kills 115:7,7
kind 14:9,21 39:4 60:16 62:22
 71:18
king 23:15
KNAPI 50:16
Knapik 32:5 45:12,16 49:24,25
 50:2,10,11,22 51:2
knew 74:17
know 7:18 8:15 9:10 15:24 17:19
 20:19,24 22:11,12,13,15 24:22
 27:2,14 28:7 32:24 34:21 35:7
 35:14,16 36:14,23 37:12,23
 38:18,19,22,23 39:6,10,13,13
 39:14 47:15,17 48:19 50:24
 51:11 52:17,17 56:22,24 57:5
 57:7,8,24 58:5 62:15 67:10,12
 75:3 76:11 82:2 84:8 86:11
 92:19 93:18 94:5,10,13,19,21
 94:22,23 95:5 96:8,22,23 97:5
 97:8 98:2,4,4,9,12 100:8
 101:24 105:23,23 106:12,19,24
 107:6,18 108:3,5,13,21 115:12
 115:23 116:2,13 118:6,21,22
 120:7 121:21 122:2,14 124:11
 125:11
known 3:8 28:18 123:2
knows 57:14 63:7 88:11
Krueger 27:15

L

L.L.C 2:8 3:5 104:19
lab 55:4
labor 69:16,21 90:7 110:16
 113:9
laborer 121:8
laborers 26:4 38:15
Laborers' 25:14,16

lack 53:12 55:14 106:14	leaking 31:15
lacking 57:21	leaks 121:16,16
ladies 2:3 106:23	learn 72:20 87:5
lake 57:23,24,24	learned 10:14
land 5:20 10:16 11:4 15:11	learning 61:25
18:17,20 23:18 28:7 29:17,21	lease 29:20 56:18 111:2
31:5,16,22 34:16,22 36:2	leases 30:4
37:18,22 38:11,11,12,18 47:20	leave 112:16 113:2
53:22,22 54:15 55:25 56:19	leaves 91:10
58:7,9 59:24 60:4 68:4 69:6	leaving 112:23 113:11
70:18,20,25 71:2 72:22,24,24	led 23:12
73:3 79:7,14 81:5,9 83:4 92:3	left 2:19 59:24 82:24 83:2,4
93:10,12 94:18 96:4 97:11,12	94:23 96:14,17,19,20 111:14
98:6,20 99:6,16 101:14,19	114:10
102:2,3,13,23 104:3 105:4,14	legacy 44:8,19 68:5 98:22
107:16,21 108:15 111:2 112:4	legal 15:18 112:10
112:8,10,14,16,20,25 114:5,24	legislature 10:25
114:25 122:5,13,18	legislatures 24:10
land's 93:15 122:15	legitimate 10:20 43:20 83:18,20
landfills 113:16	lenders 107:25
landing 58:3	length 33:15 49:21
landowners 19:3,21 21:23 31:20	let's 12:20 13:24 66:13 88:13
55:24 74:25 98:20 124:6	89:4 100:15
lands 31:11 71:12 89:20 103:7	letter 46:12 47:9
113:10	letters 32:16
landscape 44:15 64:5 98:10,11	letting 39:2
language 54:24 55:19	level 10:21 38:8 64:5 76:7,17
large 9:24 10:9,15 48:13 56:5	81:14 123:19
64:4 88:3 97:18 124:3	leveraging 56:5
larger 54:3	liberty 23:9
largest 76:24 91:3 113:23	licenses 30:4
lasts 88:8	life 11:14,16 31:7 35:2 51:5
late 123:5	57:7,9 59:6 67:7 69:21 93:3
laughing 109:11	106:5
law 1:12 2:10,17,19 11:4,4 15:3	lifelong 52:23
15:19 16:5 18:16,20,25 24:3	lifespan 55:7,8 88:7,8 93:12
24:25 71:9 84:7,7,9,10 117:13	113:14
lawn 98:24	lifestyle 83:11
lawns 18:13	lighting 99:10
laws 5:25 9:16 11:3,6,10 17:8	limit 7:15,17 11:24 78:2
24:10 34:4 39:2 40:15 46:17	limited 10:16 33:7
46:20 47:3 69:10 76:16	limiting 23:18
lawyer 45:22	line 29:5 56:3 104:23 110:4
leach 113:16	lines 56:23,24 74:20
leaching 105:9	link 60:19
lead 43:22 66:6 67:23 113:16	list 5:5 48:6 95:24
122:22	listen 4:8,11 89:12 124:24
Leader 5:7	125:7
leaders 30:11	listening 47:10 124:16
Leadership 23:20 46:23 71:6	literally 91:4 98:24

little 14:24 27:22 35:3 60:13 62:19 76:11 80:8 88:14 91:9 91:24 97:13,20 110:23	97:21
live 9:9 25:25 36:20 37:7,18 38:8 40:10,23,24 41:4 44:5 47:16,19,24 56:22,23 57:13 58:11,21 60:23 64:10 70:20 73:9,11,16 106:5,6,20 112:12 115:4,8 116:12 117:2 118:8,18 119:7,22 124:10	location 1:18 5:16 32:24
lived 21:11 35:25 50:13,22 51:3 52:10 58:23 62:21 87:13 93:3	locking 113:6
livelihood 27:18 31:22	logic 20:11
livelihoods 31:7	logo 60:14
lives 41:7,11 52:11 57:11 70:18 113:12	long 7:16,19 21:11 29:4,7 43:21 106:18 118:6 122:17
living 26:3 36:9 57:8,8 70:14 107:15 113:18 117:19 118:7	long-term 53:9,13,16 55:12,14
LLC 1:1,9 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1 101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1 121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1 126:1	long-time 68:3
loan 107:3,10,25	longer 29:4 101:2 109:3 113:19 115:10
local 5:25 9:16 11:3,6 15:19 16:5 17:8 23:13,17,23 25:2,14 25:16,19,20,25 29:15 33:18 34:4 36:16 46:20 47:3 53:4,15 53:20 88:15 89:20 99:13,14,18 99:19 101:22 117:10 118:11 124:7	look 4:19 35:7 37:18 47:15 51:20 55:23 57:25 59:17 83:7 84:21 96:4,12,13 98:11 99:4 107:14 112:21
locally 40:17 54:20 55:12 74:2	looked 45:5 96:25
located 1:14 2:13 42:20 43:4	looking 24:20 47:6 101:9 107:25
	looks 18:16 39:25 51:23 78:24
	loose 82:12
	lopsided 66:13
	lose 43:24 44:6 46:11 60:17 110:18 118:15 120:20
	losing 90:5
	loss 31:4 54:18 81:25 82:17 103:13
	lost 43:5 65:17 74:21,22 80:14 82:7 106:7
	lot 20:18,25 29:4 32:25 37:4 39:8 48:5 55:24 59:10 72:17 74:4 76:14 78:11,15 79:7 91:10 98:2 99:7 100:8 106:21 107:17 108:18 116:3 122:13 123:12
	lots 51:16,18 73:5
	loudly 86:21
	love 28:7 59:18 98:3 99:2,4 111:21
	lovely 107:18,18
	loves 59:5
	low 34:9 64:24 106:13 110:14
	low- 64:24
	lower 81:14
	M
	M-A-L-L-E-R-Y 92:25
	M-E-R-T-E-N-S 87:9
	M.S.G.'s 102:25
	ma'am 23:5 29:10 42:3 45:23 48:25 49:20 50:4,8 86:21 89:23 100:19 101:5 105:20

114:19 120:6,22	math 20:12 21:18
machine 114:9 121:16	mathematics 20:11
machinery 16:14	matter 2:6,7,19,20 7:3 36:23
Mackenzie 58:17 67:4	37:13 45:4 47:7,11 57:17
MacKillop-Soller 1:20 2:20	61:18 63:9 64:14 119:18
mailing 6:15,16	maximum 33:16 87:20
Maine 121:12	mayor 20:4,5
maintain 1:13 2:11 9:19 69:22	mazes 83:2
108:18,19 110:20	Meadows 110:8
maintenance 82:6 104:21	mean 39:2 61:14,15 77:21
majestic 115:10	meaning 46:11
major 1:9 2:8 3:25,25 71:8	meaningful 11:9 53:14 55:21
making 4:12 29:8 31:2 106:15	means 9:15 68:16,25 82:10
122:16	measure 16:25 17:3
MALE 14:3,6	meet 54:25 66:20 106:16,22
Mallery 92:23,24,25 95:4	107:11 109:9
Mallory 86:15	meeting 42:18 47:2
man 64:16 115:20	meetings 123:16
manage 54:20 55:12	meets 47:8 72:6
management 70:3 95:19 115:20,21	mega 58:3
manager 25:14 67:18 122:23	mega-commercial 56:9
123:4	megaphone 42:13
managing 67:20	megawatt 2:12 3:7 65:9 73:23
manner 105:7,15	74:2 83:25
manual 69:21	megawatts 43:8,10 78:4,7
manufacturing 30:24	member 52:24
manure 70:3 80:18 82:12 108:12	members 25:16,22,25 26:4 82:7
map 32:20 41:11 61:3 97:3	123:10
maple 31:2	memories 37:3
maps 96:13 97:3	mention 13:13 73:4,6 97:20,22
March 3:10 4:23	mentioned 34:3 47:14 61:11 98:3
marched 24:15	merely 9:25
marching 24:17	Mertens 87:2,8,9 89:24
margin 110:15	met 13:2
marginal 69:14	metal 30:24
marginalized 53:20	metals 105:10
margins 110:23	mic 14:15 42:3 45:24 79:10
Marine 26:25	114:19
market 54:23 80:14 106:18 111:8	Michael 86:13
marketed 54:22	Michelle 50:5 58:18,19
markets 106:10	Michigan 109:11
married 35:22 51:3	microphone 8:4 9:4 14:4,5,8,8
masked 114:3	14:17,18 42:13 79:10 86:22,23
Massachusetts 119:8	microreactor 65:9,10
massive 13:15 81:24	mics 14:17 50:20
master's 63:23	middle 92:15 119:17
match 99:10	mile 38:8 43:4 73:24 87:15
material 61:24 96:18	miles 51:20 53:25
materially 66:15	military 27:3 117:11
materials 7:24 34:14 126:9	milk 79:23 80:15,16,22 81:15

milking 67:16
mill 3:8 25:17,23 26:4 43:9
 54:2 71:20 84:10 102:8 104:20
 110:9 122:23
million 88:13 99:8 108:2
millions 69:7 113:14
mills 116:3
mind 43:16
minded 18:14
mine 119:3
Mineral 102:22 103:6
minerals 113:10
minimize 8:11 105:8
minimum 18:21 34:5 53:24
minute 7:15 99:10
minutes 12:11 72:17 98:25
mispronounced 32:4
missed 96:24,24
mistake 65:15 92:9
modern 37:12
modest 66:18,19
Mohawk 35:25 84:14 95:16 96:8
 97:18
Mojave 92:15
moment 23:4
moments 4:15
money 27:12 28:2 37:6 56:5
 69:12,22 94:15 99:7 108:18
 114:2
monopoly 80:22
Montgomery 1:1,9,15 2:1,8,13
 3:1,5 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1
 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1
 16:1 17:1,23 18:1 19:1,22
 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1
 26:1,2 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1
 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1,25
 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1
 42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1
 48:1,3 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1,24
 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1
 59:1 60:1,11,14 61:1 62:1
 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1 67:1 68:1
 69:1,8 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1
 74:1 75:1 76:1,25 77:1 78:1
 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1 84:1
 85:1 86:1 87:1,25 88:1 89:1
 90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1,2 94:1
 95:1 96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1
 100:1 101:1,12 102:1,3 103:1

104:1,19 105:1,4 106:1,13,20
 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1 111:1
 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1
 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1 121:1
 122:1 123:1,5 124:1,10 125:1
 125:6 126:1
Montgomery's 5:25
month 37:20 107:8 123:24
months 23:25 32:15 36:7
moon 64:16,19
moose 82:12
Morford 20:6,7,10
morning 119:13
mortgage 30:8
motels 94:16
mountain 117:7
move 37:6 44:20 83:4,6 97:14
 99:16,21 122:9
moved 30:17 44:13 61:23 83:9
 117:6
moving 64:7 102:21
mowed 98:25
mud 70:9 79:17 108:7
muddy 62:13
Muleback 86:12,13,19 89:25
multigenerational 52:24
multiple 72:4 118:10
municipalities 11:18
MW 1:14
myopic 108:17
myth 54:21

N

N 75:23
N-R-A-D-T 56:16
N.C.C.P.I 54:16
name 2:16 6:11,16 8:3,4,5 9:7
 15:3,5 17:18 29:9,12 32:8
 35:13,13 38:8,9 39:23 49:6,9
 50:10 52:22 56:15 58:19,20
 61:8,9 63:18 67:4,5 70:13
 73:15 79:4 85:24 86:24,24
 87:8 92:24 95:10 100:17
 104:12 109:20 110:6 111:25
 112:2,3 116:25 121:2 122:22
 123:8 126:11
named 15:16
nameplate 78:5
narrative 68:20
nation 23:13 101:16 103:4

national 89:8 102:2
native 54:18 96:7,8
natural 64:4 71:11
nature 24:24 64:2 66:22
near 32:22 56:23 75:8 115:4
 117:14,16,16,17,19 118:7,18
necessarily 36:23 93:9
necessary 29:22
need 6:8 8:7 14:21 46:8 47:18
 47:24 50:4,5 63:20 72:20 78:6
 78:10 81:16 89:17,19 92:21
 93:20 103:16 104:25 107:22
 109:9,13 113:4 116:19 122:17
needed 61:21 76:19
needs 66:20 78:11 96:25 113:4
negatively 72:4
neighbor 35:8 69:25
neighborhoods 44:13
neighboring 102:7
neighborly 111:19
neighbors 35:5 47:4 48:24 56:18
 72:21 76:10 83:3 108:6
Nelson 67:2 73:14,14,15,16
 88:25
nervous 86:9
net 81:25
never 18:7 21:11 27:10 37:4
 52:3 74:18,18 79:15 84:2 92:7
 97:21,21 102:25 103:8 104:4
new 1:2,11,19 2:10 5:9 9:9
 10:18,24 20:13,18,23 21:2,3
 21:19 22:12,16 24:9 25:20
 26:3 30:22 31:17 32:10,11
 33:12 39:3 40:14 63:19 64:7
 65:14 66:11,16 67:21 68:11
 69:9 71:8 74:11 88:9,16,22
 91:4 93:3 97:7 100:6 102:2,4
 102:20,20 103:4 105:5 106:6,8
 106:14 108:21,25 109:2,5
 117:13 118:22 119:4,4,12,19
 126:2
news 66:9
nice 62:15 91:8
Nick 109:25 121:2
night 37:2
nine 2:6 43:18 100:18 101:18
nineteen-point-nine 73:25
nineties 117:24
ninety- 73:22
ninety-six 88:13

noise 5:22 43:21
non-participating 13:10
non-stick 21:8
normal 21:15,16
North 109:11
Northeast 30:23 55:5
Northville 117:7
northwest 97:19
Nose 60:13,13
note 7:4 29:23 78:14
notice 4:23 5:4
noticed 75:20 78:15
notified 75:3,4 105:14
November 100:7
nuclear 65:3,23 66:11,19 87:14
 88:8,8,9,9,13,14
null 122:7
number 2:6 6:11,17 78:25 86:18
 100:18 109:20 124:3 126:7
numbers 41:10 101:24
numerous 32:16 33:4,20
nurse 117:10,22
NYSERDA 71:16

O

O 2:5
object 9:22
obligation 68:2
obsolete 113:8
obtained 33:8
occupants 75:11
occupied 91:16
occupy 92:3
ocean 113:24
October 32:21
odd 91:5
odds 12:23
odor 94:22
offer 6:3 16:6 89:5
offers 53:13 106:19
office 1:4 2:18,21 3:15,21,23
 4:6,12 5:14 6:10 9:12 10:25
 23:25 46:19
officer 117:11
offices 106:24
official 7:2
officials 7:11,12 18:11,13
 40:17 99:12 105:14 124:7
oftentimes 72:7
oh 24:18 28:20,21 40:4 77:8

Ohio 30:17 109:10
oil 113:24 114:2 121:16
okay 4:20 14:2 15:2 20:5,8
 26:19 28:23 29:12 40:6,12
 45:15 46:6,9 50:25 62:12,16
 63:15 64:18 84:16 85:5,9,23
 86:2,3,17,18,20 89:11 90:2
 95:9 100:19 103:19 105:21
 106:3 109:21 120:9,19
old 1:18 26:24 27:8,15 35:21,22
 88:8,9
older 31:23 96:5 107:23
oldest 112:25
Omeprazole 117:23
once 48:16 54:16 60:17 93:12
 104:3 111:4 113:21 115:22,24
one-and-a-half 21:13
ones 39:3 105:22 112:16
open 10:16 18:14 59:15 123:23
 124:23
operate 1:13 2:11 3:6 73:17
operating 107:10
operation 3:13 67:24 111:7
operations 70:4 124:13
operator 67:18
operators 70:8
opinion 124:20
opinions 4:25 95:6 125:2
opponents 124:5
opportunity 4:25 6:23 8:19 9:6
 80:17 101:7 107:12 111:4
opposed 22:15 110:17
oppressive 24:10
option 25:22 44:5,5
options 68:12 73:4 118:12,12,13
 119:21
oral 7:7
orchards 82:25
order 7:13 8:10 38:5 70:7
ordinance 46:21
ORES 1:7 2:18 3:22 4:16 5:3
 6:22,24 11:2,7,19,21 15:8,18
 24:2 33:11 46:13,14,19 71:17
 83:11 84:20,22 89:7 93:18
ORES' 6:4
organization 8:6 63:20
organizations 118:11
organize 23:2
Oriesville 40:10,24 77:18
original 111:2 123:3

osprey 51:7
osteoporosis 118:4
Osterman 15:4
ought 52:7
outlive 112:7
output 55:22
outreach 123:22
outside 53:17 111:14
outweigh 16:9
overflow 15:19
overlooked 97:11
overly 40:20,22
overprescribed 117:25 118:2
override 11:10
override 11:3
oversee 3:23
oversight 57:20
overwhelming 12:23 13:5
owned 27:6,10 36:3 44:25 45:7
owner 35:2,4 53:4 110:8
owners 34:22 98:3 105:14
ownership 30:2 112:10
owning 29:24
owns 9:19 49:4 98:10,11

P

P- 81:23
P-I-E-T-R-O-W-I-C-Z 90:4
p.m 1:17 2:2,5 6:19 85:18,19,20
 85:21,22 125:17,20
pack 44:20
page 18:17 30:15 126:5
pages 126:7
paid 18:7 81:4
Palatine 84:4
panel 20:17 115:15
panel's 55:3
panels 10:3 16:8 20:13,14 21:3
 21:10,16,17,19,25 22:5 24:11
 24:19,21 28:4 31:15 33:5
 40:25 43:23 51:13,23,25 52:14
 52:18 55:9,11 56:17 57:25
 59:11,21 60:5,15 64:25 72:13
 80:20 88:3 90:11 93:11 94:4
 104:14,15,21,25 105:3,6,10,12
 110:24 113:9,20 115:19,23
 119:10 121:18
paper 96:2
papers 7:21
parade 24:16

paragraphs 83:14	116:14,19 117:22 118:7 122:14
parcel 18:22 98:10	124:7,15 125:6
parcels 33:5 98:8 102:12	percent 20:15,15,16,16,19,20
Pardon 49:7	21:14,18 33:16 43:5,17,19
parent 113:22	53:24 80:4,7 89:5,9 93:4,5
Park 77:7,8,15	94:2 101:14
parked 108:4	percentage 20:22
parking 51:16,17 73:5	peregrine 48:8
part 2:24 4:5 5:3,11 7:2 23:4	perfect 123:21
31:18 46:20 71:2,9 95:16	perfectly 124:15
110:8	performed 33:22
part-time 53:4	permit 1:8,10 2:9 3:6,9,11 5:2
participate 4:18 125:7	5:12 6:9,25 7:25 15:15 17:11
participated 12:23 15:7	31:19 46:14,17 76:2 78:11
participating 15:24 124:5	84:14 93:25
particularly 62:3	permitted 18:17,24 93:24
parties 16:2	person 72:7 79:2 107:25
parts 53:11 71:5 82:11 108:8	personal 42:20 61:19 67:17
party 5:5 15:23	114:12
Pasquarelli 32:4 41:18,19,22,23	personally 36:14 63:4 75:4
41:24 42:5,9,12,14 45:11	persons 5:5
pass 89:8	perspective 15:18 71:13 73:22
passed 71:7	Peru's 113:23
Pat 24:15	pesticide 67:16
patches 60:8 82:25	Phase 96:2,11
patient 25:10,12	phone 37:11 78:25 86:17,18
patriotic 62:4	100:17 109:20 123:15
Patti 86:13 90:2	phonetic 40:11
Patty 90:3	phonetically 28:12
pave 77:9	photo 3:7 22:7,10
paving 59:10	photonics 22:8,10
pay 27:12,17,19,25 37:21 80:17	photovoltaic 3:8
88:4 90:6 106:25 107:8 108:15	physical 110:16
110:20 117:12	physically 70:7
paying 36:13,13 54:8	pick 42:6 79:9,10
payments 69:8	picking 115:11,12
payroll 67:15 107:4	pickings 61:4
peace 59:14	piece 27:7 123:22
Pennsylvania 109:10	pieces 108:3
pension 107:22	Pietrow 86:13
pensions 107:21	Pietrowicz 78:22 81:22,22,23,23
people 8:18 16:20 20:24 23:12	83:19,22 84:17,20 85:5,9,11
28:14 29:5,8 30:21 36:8,22	86:13 90:2,3,4
37:4,17 41:14 48:9,23 58:8,11	pile 106:24
59:13,18,18 60:7,23 61:16	pit 80:18
62:9,21,22,22 67:10,11,21	place 10:2 11:10 22:14 25:21
69:17 72:2 73:4,9 75:4 76:8,9	31:18 40:17 43:13 51:8 55:12
77:2,11,14 79:8,13,15,15	59:14 64:21 73:6 102:18
80:21 82:2 89:12 93:9 94:24	108:22 126:5
98:5 108:11 110:13,17 111:22	places 44:11 52:14 60:24 102:6

plan 31:18 33:21 34:8,12 41:12 55:12 101:17 113:14 planned 84:9 planner 67:15 planning 17:21,23 18:4,15 67:24 plans 33:12 34:4 44:8 66:6 124:12 plant 65:23 87:14 planting 112:22 platform 6:3 play 64:22 playing 10:21 114:12 please 4:22 6:21 7:4,9,17,22 8:5,23 9:4 12:12 17:15 26:10 26:11,12 27:20 32:6,7 41:22 49:6 50:4,7,8 52:20 53:6 56:2 56:12 58:16,18 61:7,8 62:18 66:25 67:3 73:12 83:21 86:4 86:21,24,25 90:16,16,18,19 99:5 100:16,20,20 110:4 111:24 114:18 116:24 119:19 119:23 120:10 plenty 51:14 plight 59:2 116:9 plow 9:19 plumber 67:14 plus 25:25 37:22 65:23 80:9 point 3:9 4:11 21:17 25:17,23 26:5 43:9 53:25 54:2 62:8,9 62:20 65:15 71:20 77:2 84:9 84:11,22 91:14 100:2 102:8 104:20 110:9 122:23 poisoned 113:11 poles 43:25 police 117:11 policy 64:9 political 30:11,13 64:14 politician 59:4 pollen 20:24,25 21:2,9 22:16 polluted 113:24 pollution 33:21 72:14 74:13 115:18 population 78:6 92:17 portion 96:19,20 portrayal 68:24 pose 55:11 position 15:9 46:13,14 positive 67:11 123:22 positively 11:4 possession 30:2	possibilities 72:14 possible 43:22 50:25 124:11 possibly 96:5 post 30:16 postage 98:24 posted 5:4 posting 6:15 postmarked 6:18 potential 5:17 96:22 123:11 potentially 72:14 pounded 44:2 pouring 69:12 power 11:2,21 19:14 20:17,22 22:15 55:3 56:23,24 65:3 88:20,20,21 114:12 117:19 practical 56:9 Practically 11:7 practice 97:6,14 practices 33:24,25 70:3 preclude 34:15 predicted 66:3 prefer 124:20 prepared 126:8 preparing 61:20 105:11 preserve 93:9 111:13 President 75:24 presiding 3:3 pressed 76:12 pressure 11:18 pretty 82:23 114:23 prevent 10:23 15:20 58:6 103:13 prevention 33:21 74:13 previously 34:3 price 90:6 prices 89:10 106:14 pride 122:13 Prilosec 117:23 primary 54:5,9 prime 29:14 54:13,13 71:23 77:24,24 79:7,14 101:19,21 102:14,14 103:11 104:2 Princetown 75:7 principal 81:5 principles 62:2 printed 7:22 prior 87:13 96:4 prioritize 25:19 prioritizing 53:18 privacy 30:5 private 53:17 112:10
---	--

pro 87:10 88:22
probably 22:12 61:12 91:2,18
 93:4 95:16
problem 22:7 35:4 38:12 39:9
 87:22 100:4 114:9 115:3,25
problems 74:8 75:5 80:19
procedures 75:10
proceeding 12:24 15:5,8,15 16:2
 17:9,10
proceedings 15:23
process 4:5 5:3,11 7:24 11:22
 13:14 17:13 31:19 74:24
 102:20 125:8
processing 80:9,10 106:14
proclamation 23:11
produce 31:2
producer 80:15
produces 16:15 103:25
production 31:10 54:14 82:10,17
 93:13 109:8
productive 102:2 103:14 104:2
productivity 102:3,5 103:3,24
professional 19:5 32:11 67:17
professionally 95:18
profit 48:22 53:18 68:22 110:15
 113:2
profits 54:10 60:24 69:14 87:20
progress 44:11 59:9,10 112:24
progressive 114:25 115:2
project 4:8 5:4 6:13,16 7:5,6
 13:3,5 16:22 18:6 19:6,20,25
 25:17,21,23 26:5,6 30:9 32:14
 42:24 53:13 54:7,22 55:20
 65:5 77:23 78:10 81:24,25
 83:13 84:2,4,13 90:6,23,25
 91:2,3,6,12,16,17,18,25 92:9
 92:16 93:24,24 96:14 97:19
 104:20 105:16 110:9,17 111:8
 111:11,15 113:23 122:23,24,25
 123:4,17 124:2,4,5,12,18,20
 124:21,22 125:2
project's 5:16,24 6:24
projections 55:19
projects 10:10,11,20,23 11:5,20
 11:23 15:17,20 25:18,18 26:3
 43:7 71:20 83:16 88:17 94:25
 99:7 107:22 123:6
promise 22:25 62:17 121:25,25
promises 74:4
promoted 70:23

proof 16:7
proper 75:9 115:20,21
properties 13:10 96:17,21
property 27:6,8,12 28:3,10,12
 29:14,24,24 30:6,8 35:4,6
 40:18 41:6 42:24 43:14 44:18
 87:16 94:20 96:19,20 98:2,5
 103:2 107:13 108:20 110:25
 119:6
proposal 60:21
proposals 84:22
propose 11:5
proposed 3:13 5:13 7:5 16:25
 32:21 33:24 46:15,24 84:2,13
 117:4
proposition 24:2
prosper 66:8
protect 9:16 11:10 26:24 44:18
 44:19,19 47:5 103:8 104:5
protected 17:7 23:17 101:14
protecting 111:7 119:5,5,6
protection 23:20 46:23 71:7
 103:14
protections 40:16
protective 21:4
prove 33:23
proven 117:19
provide 3:2 4:14 5:12 25:24
 29:17 31:23 32:17 36:18 76:18
 88:20,21 99:14
provided 33:19 64:8 126:9
provider 89:6
provides 6:3 36:21 88:19
providing 111:9
provision 24:3,7,8,12
provisions 16:6
proximity 91:18
public 1:3,11,16 2:10,17 3:4,20
 4:4,18,23 5:20 9:6 16:20
 118:20
published 5:6
pull 74:24
pulled 20:23 113:10
pulling 67:23 109:13
pumpkin 60:8 82:25 115:12
pumpkins 115:12
punished 119:3,4
purchase 69:22
purchased 31:11 118:14
purpose 103:9

pursuant 1:10 2:9
push 15:16
pushback 76:18
pushed 41:15
put 11:10 23:3 31:18 34:14 36:7
 40:16 44:11 51:13 52:5,14
 57:21 61:17 73:7 78:25 89:19
 94:17 100:4,15 108:10 109:20
 110:16 115:16 121:14,19
puts 84:23
putting 52:9 59:11 64:16 76:3
 92:5 99:9 116:3 119:12
puzzled 102:10

Q

quaint 69:20
qualify 102:14
quality 25:24 77:22 95:22
 102:10 106:21 121:10
quarter 91:24
question 6:20 40:13 55:7 62:5
 112:19,20
questioning 70:3
questions 6:21 123:16
quiet 30:3 57:9
quietly 101:10 102:18 104:2
quite 97:24 107:14
quote 71:10

R

R-E-A-L-E 78:25 86:3
R-E-A-L-L 78:25 86:2
R-E-I-L-L-Y 9:8 104:13
raccoons 47:21
radiation 115:6
raise 27:11 42:7 94:9 98:9
ramp 32:23
range 47:18,24,25 80:6 123:25
ranging 69:25
ranks 54:15 102:3
Rapid 15:16 77:19
rare 113:10
ratcheted 11:18
rate 24:6 80:2
rates 66:6
rating 20:15 54:16
rational 66:17
Ray 67:2 79:4
read 36:14 46:12 51:12
reading 86:16

reads 115:19
ready 39:7
real 16:6 19:12 22:9 29:24,24
 35:4 42:19,21,23 45:25 48:19
 54:13 55:17 63:21 75:5 112:20
Reale 78:24 85:13,13,14,25
reality 17:6
Reall 85:25
really 11:8 14:16 22:4 26:8
 39:7,14 52:8 57:11 58:4 63:11
 68:6 70:16 72:9,17 78:10
 90:23 91:5 106:5 108:13 109:5
 116:11 120:3,4,4
Realty 41:24 42:15
reap 10:3
rear 34:6
reason 37:16 124:11
reasons 76:4
Rebecca 41:21 56:12,15
rebuilt 74:6
receive 3:4 5:6
received 7:13 18:7
recognize 78:11
recognizes 63:20
recommends 46:19
reconsider 73:12
record 2:4,25 7:2 9:8 12:17
 44:22 49:6,9 53:18 62:13
 76:14 85:20,21,22,24 95:3
 97:16,23 99:24 100:24 125:19
 126:8
recorded 46:2
Recorder 5:7
recording 8:7
recover 93:15
recovered 65:18
rectangle 91:8
recycle 22:4
recycled 22:2
recycling 22:5 55:10
red 18:2 66:10
reduce 34:8 71:7
reduced 82:22
reducing 34:5,7
reduction 43:18
Reese 86:3
refer 3:23,23 6:16 64:15
reference 104:20
reflect 57:25 95:3
reflux 117:25

regarding 19:9 44:22 70:2	Reporters 126:8
regardless 89:15	reporting 70:2
regenerate 54:17	represent 8:5 9:13 15:4 18:14
region 55:2	30:11,12 54:5 93:25
registered 125:10	representative 25:2 74:11
registration 6:6 7:8,9,13	108:24
regular 6:15 21:10	representing 52:25
regulate 15:20	represents 54:12
regulating 62:6	Repsol 31:19 113:22 122:24
regulations 5:25 18:18 46:18	123:18
84:20 90:24 92:19 106:15	requested 17:10 33:17
116:17	require 84:21
rehabilitator 48:3	required 5:6,12
Reilly 8:21 9:3,5,8,10 12:3,15	requirement 18:23
12:18,22 100:16 104:11,12,12	requires 16:24 31:17 33:13
related 6:2 94:17 97:25	123:14
relationship 64:3	requiring 11:8
release 71:14	rescue 29:18
reliable 65:2 66:7 88:18	research 71:25 72:9
relies 14:20	researching 68:11
religion 61:15	reset 25:7
rely 26:2 82:24	reshapes 60:22
remain 55:9	resident 18:2 53:4 57:13 70:6
remaining 19:5 78:2 85:15	92:25 95:11 104:13 112:3
remember 14:14 27:15 61:16,23	residential 11:15 44:12 87:11
65:14	residents 9:15,17 15:12 18:14
remind 46:7 125:15	24:23 40:18 42:25 54:9 69:15
reminder 114:11	124:9
remove 34:13	resilience 53:19
removed 54:13 74:15 93:14	resonated 62:4
115:24	resource 95:19 111:9
removing 24:12 105:11	resources 5:19 9:18 10:19 24:2
Renee 86:17 87:9	96:7
renewable 1:4,10 2:8,22 3:15,21	respect 13:18,20 56:2 94:6
4:2 5:14 11:2 17:25 18:4	113:4,5 124:23
23:25 64:12 111:10	respectfully 58:10
renewables 66:19	respite 60:11
renewal 11:2	responders 124:8
rented 27:12	responsibility 69:2
rep's 106:18	responsible 3:2,3,24 55:16
repair 88:4	123:6
repairman 67:15,16	rest 13:25 63:4
repeats 112:24	restrictions 18:25
repercussions 116:12	result 16:8
replace 65:22 82:6	resume 85:18,19
replaced 105:2	retained 32:13
replacement 82:11 104:21	retire 41:12
report 71:11	retired 17:25
reported 1:23 102:8 126:4	retirement 44:8 107:20
Reporter 2:23 8:8 14:19 126:13	return 69:14 80:2,8 110:10

returned 111:2
returning 34:16 55:14
review 3:24 5:23 6:8 8:2 14:20
 16:23 32:14
reviewed 6:24 125:14
reviewing 96:18 104:18
reviews 5:15
revitalizing 30:18
Revolution 23:10
rework 78:12
Rhode 53:24
ribbon 99:13
rich 83:10
ridiculous 92:6
riding 64:20
right 2:21,23 8:16,20 9:2,2
 12:20 13:25 14:2,22,23,24
 20:10 22:4,9,18 23:8,13,17
 25:5,11 26:8 27:25 29:6,11
 30:2,2,3,3,4,4,5,7 33:10
 37:24 38:24 39:24 41:18,19
 42:11 50:3,12,18 52:20 53:21
 56:19 57:7 58:15,21 60:2
 62:18 63:12 64:21 66:24 69:19
 71:16 83:22 84:6,19 85:12,14
 85:14 86:2,3,19,21 87:3,6
 90:2,14 94:18 95:2 97:5
 104:10 107:9 109:21 114:18
 120:2,12,18,22,25
rightfully 66:5
rightly 66:5
rights 29:23,25 30:9 98:5
risk 41:4 54:12 57:22
risks 110:15
River 73:23 74:10
rivers 113:24
Riverside 32:22
road 1:18 9:9 19:4 29:14 36:12
 37:15 38:8 40:11,24 54:8
 56:22 70:7 75:11 78:19 108:7
 117:3
roads 9:19 13:16,16,18 16:13
 31:9 33:12,13,15 74:6
roadways 13:9
role 30:13 64:21 71:9
rollout 102:19
roofing 30:24
rooftop 73:7
room 59:17 67:12 122:12
rooms 77:10

root 114:8
rooted 53:2 55:17 103:10
roots 29:15 113:21
rose 64:16
Rosenthal 108:24
rotten 51:22
roughly 25:15 65:8
Roundup 38:19
Route 58:21
routes 32:20
row 8:14,23 17:16 26:10 32:6
 78:23 79:3 86:5 109:23
rubber 11:22
ruined 52:2
ruins 88:3
rule 23:13,16 103:16
rules 102:17 116:17
rumors 123:17
run 20:10,11 25:8 27:25 41:24
 42:15 57:15 62:19 106:23
running 111:7
runoff 16:16 41:5 54:19 57:16
 74:6
rural 10:15 15:17 53:19
rush 15:14 76:22
rushing 107:24
rutting 16:18

S

S-A-R-D-I 112:3
S-C-H-U- 63:17
S-H- 25:13
S-C-H-U-E 63:15
S.M.R 65:10
S.T.P.s 97:11
sacrifice 69:16
sacrificed 77:23
sacrificing 59:13 65:13
sad 120:4,4
saddle 30:25
safeguard 40:17
safety 5:20 40:18
sale 10:3 38:15
sampling 33:23
Sandra 32:4 50:11
Sarah 90:17 98:16,17
Saratoga 87:14
SARDI 112:2
sat 44:23
save 89:12,20 99:5 100:10,10,11

113:3	118:16 119:7 122:7
saved 89:17	selling 30:7 38:15 118:13
saving 48:11 113:4	Senator 24:15,19 108:25
savings 41:7	Senior 32:9
sawmills 30:23	sense 56:7 59:15 65:25 68:2
saying 45:22 46:5,13 64:20 77:8	sent 31:13
79:6 83:5 94:19 105:22	separate 33:5
scale 55:9 81:18 87:18,19 88:17	September 27:23 126:11
111:7	sequestering 77:25
scaled 54:25	serious 54:19 64:22 116:11
scape 69:20 110:21	seriously 53:8 92:4
scenery 115:9	servants 118:20
scenic 60:9	serve 78:5
scheduled 4:23	served 5:5 17:20,22
Schenectady 5:8	service 1:3,12 2:10,18 101:23
Schoharie 91:22	103:11
school 36:17,17 60:2 117:8	serviceman 117:11
Schue 50:6,6 58:16 63:17,17,18	serving 30:23
science 68:10	session 6:21
scientific 7:21	set 18:17 24:14 80:13 87:4
scope 18:5	100:2
screen 11:11	setback 18:21,22 34:6
screening 13:8	setbacks 34:8 40:16
screwed 118:23	settlements 57:18
seal 74:24	seven 2:6 25:16 35:23 43:5,17
season 107:5	53:24 62:23,25 67:23 73:19
seat 8:23 17:16 32:6 86:4 90:19	80:3 85:19 88:18 109:3
109:22	seven-years-old 36:7
seats 8:9,13	seventeenth 96:11 97:18
sec 20:3 25:5	seventy 43:17
second 20:3 25:6 30:13 45:19	seventy-eight 35:22
50:4 62:12 75:16 90:16	seventy-five 18:23 51:5 93:4
seconds 12:21 22:17 94:23 98:25	seventy-seven 30:20
Section 53:21	severely 11:24
security 5:21 37:20 99:20	shaft 74:24
sediments 16:16	shake 99:12
see 6:21 28:14 31:9 36:12,12	shape 6:4 19:6 27:19 53:21
44:16 45:17 47:15 51:22 59:17	share 17:12 123:16 124:17,25
70:15 72:8 94:24 97:15,20,22	Shaul 8:25,25 22:21,21,25 25:5
101:8 104:20 107:24 109:12	25:9,9,13,13
115:11,15,17 119:10 123:24	shed 31:10
seed 82:11,13	sheds 11:11 30:24 36:12 72:23
seeds 112:22	sheep 30:25
seeing 43:11	sheer 90:25
seen 21:12 43:14 121:13,14,15	sheet 6:7,7,12,14
121:21	sheets 125:18
self-government 23:11	Shelby 58:17 66:25 70:12,13
self-imposed 68:24	Sher 58:16
sell 28:8,8 43:15 44:6 45:5	shift 102:18
87:20,21,21 94:11 115:15	shoes 67:13

short 32:17 79:22,22
shoulders 108:15
shovel 97:9
show 23:24 33:3 75:18 94:24
 96:21 97:4
showed 88:24
showing 11:9 23:21 32:21
shown 125:4
shows 53:24
shutting 59:12 65:15
side 34:7 35:19 72:8,8 119:10
sides 35:19 41:2 91:11,11
sidesaddle 64:20
Sierra 121:3
sight 33:3
sign 94:19
signed 26:24 37:16
significant 18:4 32:18 99:22
significantly 118:17
signs 18:12
silty 33:25
simple 79:22 123:12
simply 10:10 40:19
sincerely 125:3
single 51:3 74:12 89:14 123:21
sir 4:20 8:22 9:4 12:4,6,14,21
 13:22 20:2,3 22:20 25:6,12
 26:7,12,15 28:23 32:7 34:19
 35:12 39:19,22 41:17 53:5
 56:12 61:8 62:12,18 63:15,16
 66:24 75:16,20 78:22 79:10
 81:22 83:17 85:2,12 87:4,7
 92:23 98:15 110:5 111:24
 122:20
sit 27:16 86:9
site 33:7 46:16 74:21 83:13
 97:18 102:8,12
sites 47:20
siting 1:4,10 2:9,22 3:6,12,16
 3:22,24 5:14 11:2
sitting 71:24 90:11 122:11
situation 108:8
six 2:5 8:9 23:19 76:23,24 82:3
 82:4 86:18 91:5 100:18
sixteen 20:19 37:22 65:16
sixty 35:22,24 50:13 51:2 65:21
sixty- 76:23
sixty-eight 29:19
sixty-five 88:19
sixty-two 101:13 102:4

size 5:16 15:9 16:23 43:8 77:6
 77:7 90:25 92:16,17
skip 42:12
slanderous 18:9
sleep 119:16,16
slope 33:16 41:4
slow 60:10
slowly 8:6
small 10:15 11:24 13:16 22:15
 76:8,16 82:17 88:17 115:7
smaller 14:17,18 54:2 65:10
 73:25 81:18 110:24 111:7
smallest 93:23 94:3
smell 108:12
smells 94:21 99:3
snowfall 55:5
soaked 113:25
sober 63:3
social 5:17 37:20
society 16:9
soil 16:17,24 43:22 54:18 57:21
 71:23 77:23 101:22 102:5,10
 102:22 103:6,11,21 105:13
 113:17,19 115:22
soils 16:18 17:2 34:2 89:21
 101:15,21 102:17 103:14
solar 1:14 2:12 3:7 10:2 11:4
 13:5 15:10,17 16:8 18:6,16,16
 18:20,25 19:8,10,14,19,25
 20:13,14,17 21:3,16,16,18
 22:5 24:3,11,19,21,25 25:17
 25:18,18,23 26:5 28:4 31:5,15
 33:5 38:24 40:25 42:23 43:2,5
 43:9,12 44:12,24 45:2 48:13
 51:8,8,13,18,22,24 52:14,18
 53:25 54:21 55:8 56:8,17 58:3
 59:11,20 60:5,15 64:13,21,25
 65:5,21 66:15 69:5 71:20
 72:13 73:21,23 74:5 77:3
 80:20 81:17 82:5 83:6,8,12,16
 84:14 87:11,12 88:6 90:11
 91:3 93:11,22 94:2 100:5
 104:15 106:8,17 107:12 110:9
 110:24 113:15 115:5,15 117:5
 117:14 118:5,8 119:10 121:6
 121:11,13 122:23
Solar's 40:15
sold 90:9
sole 81:15
solution 73:4 114:13

solutions 63:21	spoke 86:6
somebody 82:2 119:20,23 120:8 120:10	spoken 125:11
son 28:6 81:10,11	Sprawl 75:25
soon 113:8	sprawling 64:24
sooner 66:4 92:21	spreading 82:12,13
sophistication 76:17	square 18:21
sorely 76:12	squeezed 110:23
sorry 20:3,4 22:21,21,23 28:25 29:10 32:3 38:4 39:19 40:6 42:3 45:19 49:2 50:18 53:5,6 58:17 62:11 63:22 84:15 86:9 86:14 87:7 90:2 105:19 106:2 109:19 116:8 120:2,6	stacked 15:25 17:13
sort 11:8	staff 3:9 4:16 6:22 14:20 46:13 46:14,19
soul 122:15	stage 93:25
sound 56:25 57:6 105:7 115:21 123:12	staging 32:21
source 81:15	stake 48:12
sourced 31:11	stakeholders 4:7 123:11 124:4
sources 111:10 117:20	stamp 11:22 98:24
South 113:11	stand 26:5 42:8,10 125:12
sovereignty 62:10	standards 3:12 46:16
space 59:15 92:4 119:11	standing 41:16 59:7
Spain 113:25	standpoint 34:24 56:8
speak 8:6,6,18 53:3 56:16 71:3 71:6 72:18,22 86:7,21 95:5,14 101:7	stands 82:23,24
speaker 8:15 9:3 50:14,19 85:24	start 36:20 79:6 100:3 105:22
speakers 7:12,14 8:11 85:15 125:10	started 36:6 102:20 118:5
speaking 11:7 25:15	starting 100:2
specialist 67:16,19	state 1:2,11 2:10 8:4 10:4,5,7 10:18,22,24 11:17 15:14 23:16 23:19 24:9 26:3 31:17 32:11 33:13 39:4 40:14,21 41:13,15 54:16 58:21 60:24 64:8,8 66:7 69:9 70:23 71:16,21,23 74:11 80:3,6,10 88:16,22 89:12,21 91:4 93:23 94:3 97:7 99:7 100:4 103:4 105:5 106:6,14 108:8 109:2 111:3,9,24 116:9 117:13 118:10,22 119:4,4,12 119:19 120:17 124:6 126:2
species 54:18	state's 71:10 94:2
specific 46:16 56:20 78:2	stated 126:5
specifically 40:16 42:25 62:6 95:14	statement 2:24 7:7 8:8,12 45:21 50:8 71:15 110:3
specification 47:8	states 30:16 57:17 66:10,10 101:11
speculative 55:18	statewide 101:21 102:15 103:17
speech 39:7 64:15	stating 31:13
spell 8:5 49:5,8 61:8 86:24 111:25	station 57:2
spelled 28:11 58:20 67:5	status 15:23
spend 13:7 67:12 94:15 108:18	stay 28:15,16,16 36:4,5 108:20
spent 31:15 99:7	stays 27:21
spill 75:2,3 113:24	steadfast 67:7
spirit 112:11	steamroll 11:20
spiritual 61:13,14	steel 77:9
spite 12:22 16:4	
split 107:13	

steep 41:4	summary 32:17
step 12:25	sun 19:13 20:16,23
Steve 67:2 75:17,22 84:24	Sunday 37:2
steward 53:7 68:4	sunny 100:8
stewards 101:25 114:25	superintendent 9:18 121:8
stewardship 55:17	superintendents 121:22
stick 21:10	supervisor 8:21 9:3,11,20 12:6 13:24 17:20 18:10 24:5 67:17 76:12
sticks 21:9	supplement 111:6
stock 16:19	supply 43:23,25 44:6
stone 97:13 100:2	support 19:24 25:16,17,18,22 26:4 37:7 68:2 72:11 82:9 83:11 89:19 99:18 109:6 110:9 111:19 115:13
stop 25:7 71:15 75:25 105:24 114:12	supported 16:6 88:24 111:17
stops 33:2	supporters 124:4
storage 55:13	supporting 103:14
store 89:18	supports 88:15
storm 16:16,25 17:3 33:20 74:12	supposed 18:13 19:10 74:14,16 75:3,11 96:12,12 119:6,20,23 120:16,17
story 101:18 112:5,25	sure 7:23 9:18 14:7,12 19:10 27:22 46:2,4 86:12
straight 104:23	surface 72:7
straw 116:14	surround 77:15
stream 87:15	surrounded 40:25 91:17 117:4 118:8,19
street 38:18	surrounding 24:24 43:12 104:22
strengthened 11:21	survey 121:10
stress 107:6	survival 37:24,25
stressed 103:16	survive 27:11 47:23 48:15,16 75:12
stretches 77:17	Sus 22:22
strife 77:19	Susan 22:23 86:5,15 92:23,24
stripped 23:21	suspect 93:19
strong 19:24 124:20 125:5	sustain 10:20 70:20,24
struck 62:5	sustainability 55:18
structures 44:7 97:4	sustainable 99:14,19
struggle 61:18 68:14,21	sustaining 25:24
struggling 59:20 80:2 81:2	sustains 101:16
stuck 39:16	swamplands 57:22
studied 43:7 95:15	SWEP 74:12
studies 7:20,21 43:3 117:18	SWIP 17:4,5
study 53:24 95:15 96:3,15,16,21	sworn 61:22
studying 61:24 117:17	symbol 23:11
stuff 52:10 91:10	sympathize 59:2
subject 47:12 103:12	syrup 31:3
submit 4:11,14 7:19 12:16 29:3 29:6 49:20 85:3	system 72:11 102:21 103:5
submitted 6:18 104:19	
submitting 6:17 7:20 78:8	
subscribed 126:11	
subsidies 54:23 56:6	
subsidy 69:8	
substantial 16:24	
sudden 60:20	
suffer 79:25	
suggestions 5:2	

T	
T-H-O-M-A-S 17:19	ten 33:16,16 35:23 45:2 89:5,9 94:23 96:9 99:8 106:7 108:2
T.R.C 95:23 97:2	tend 108:11
table 6:6 7:9 36:8 52:8	tentacles 91:9
tabletop 84:4	tenure 95:20
tackle 66:21	term 43:21 118:6
take 8:14,20 9:4 18:21 39:4	terrain 77:24
51:13 58:10 61:21 64:23 65:2	Terresa 15:3
65:21 68:18 76:16 77:22 83:11	territories 47:18
85:16 91:15 94:7 99:16 107:8	test 61:21 97:9
110:11,15 112:8,25	tested 105:13
taken 15:9 19:6 30:10 42:17	testing 16:25 17:4 33:23 57:21
82:16 93:13 105:3 115:8	97:10
taker 112:18	Texas 36:16,23
takes 46:14 53:8 62:13 63:12	thank 3:18 4:17,19,20 8:25 9:5
93:14 122:13 123:12	13:21,22 17:14 19:25 20:2
talk 20:12 24:12,13 33:6 38:14	22:17,20 25:2,4,12 26:6,7,15
42:22 47:12 48:21 73:10,20	26:21 28:11 31:24,25 32:8
83:14 87:17 88:13 101:8	34:17,18 35:11 38:3 39:17,18
104:14 120:19	41:16,17 42:16 45:9,11 49:19
talked 63:10	49:20 50:9 52:19 56:10,11
talker 90:5	58:11,13 61:6,8 63:13,14,16
talking 21:15 28:19 29:2 41:4	66:22,23 70:11 73:13 75:13,15
65:12 91:18 98:7	75:21,21 78:20,21 81:19,21
Tamara 109:22,24 114:15,16	85:11,12,20 87:7,8,10 88:25
Tango 121:2,2,3	89:13,22,23,24 90:13,15 92:22
tap 114:11	95:6,7,10 98:13,16 100:11,13
tape 8:14	101:6 104:7,9 105:18,25
target 10:17 28:20	109:15,18 111:17,22,23,25
targeting 71:22	114:13,14,21 116:21 120:23
targets 46:23	122:18,19 125:8,9,11,18
task 67:21	thankful 70:19
tax 10:5,8 11:25 27:24 103:2	Thanks 109:5
107:5	that's 50:24
taxes 27:13,19 37:21 54:7 81:4	thereof 104:15
108:15 117:12	thing 10:12 12:17 22:18 28:4,17
taxpayer 18:3 93:2	42:6 56:22 63:10 66:12 77:9
taxpayers 19:22,23	81:19 98:2 116:18
teachers 124:8	things 10:14 23:3 33:9 35:15
team 124:22 125:2	36:12 51:17 57:4 59:13 72:4
tears 61:24	73:20 89:18 106:11 118:7,19
technical 32:15 64:8 66:2 75:19	119:8,23
technology 20:5 22:3 37:12	think 12:10 15:2 25:7 32:3
68:11 113:7	36:14 38:17,24 39:15 45:8
tell 14:22 17:7 25:6 35:5,8,9	52:7,8,18 61:2 64:13 78:9
36:16 37:20 44:24 72:25 96:18	88:2 91:21 92:4 93:10,15
108:23 112:4 119:24	100:25 108:13 111:11,13,21
tells 101:17	114:8 116:19 122:17
temporary 60:18	thinking 10:11 58:4
	thinks 108:21

third 70:14 91:3,19
thirteen 43:19 102:6
thirteenth 102:4
thirty 33:4 60:18 80:5 90:10
thirty-five 37:2 118:2
thirty-four 18:3
thirty-two 32:12 93:2
Thomas 8:24,24,24,25 17:16,18
 17:18 22:6
thoroughly 5:15
thought 66:4 116:16
thousand 15:11 16:24 37:19
 43:15,16,17 48:14 54:12 58:2
 65:16,21 71:22 74:22 76:23
 77:22 90:9 91:5 96:9 101:13
 101:18,20 102:14 107:3 118:15
 120:21 124:15
thousands 31:4 69:23 82:16,16
 88:20 103:15
threatens 31:5 55:20
three 2:6 7:15 20:20 21:5,7
 28:22 35:19 43:16 44:14 48:14
 68:3 72:17 77:6 78:2 82:5
 87:25 88:18 91:11 95:17
 101:18 102:9 108:2 121:19
three-hundred- 83:24
thrives 60:7
throw 60:20
thrown 59:9
ties 9:24 71:21
tighter 110:23
till 13:25
Tim 9:10 20:6
time 2:5 4:17 7:15,17 8:11
 11:23 12:3,9 20:16 21:11
 24:20 27:15,16 29:2 42:17
 48:25 53:16 57:6 62:14 69:24
 74:3 75:14 85:2,17,18 87:6
 94:7 95:6,10 101:5 103:22
 110:14 120:13,14 121:23
 123:12 125:15 126:4
Time's 28:24
timeframe 105:11
timeline 124:12
timely 105:14
times 20:14 27:11,11,17 54:3
 77:6 96:6
Timothy 8:21 9:8
tipping 84:22
tire 67:15

today 2:4,24 4:3 7:21 20:20
 36:8 59:2,6 65:19 78:19 93:7
 95:13 104:6
today's 37:7 68:24
told 27:17 41:8 44:9 51:10,12
 74:11 76:12 113:3 118:12
Tom 67:2 73:14,15
tomorrow 78:17
tonight 3:14 4:8,13,18 7:14,18
 15:24 17:8,12 19:11,24 25:10
 32:16 38:10 42:18 56:16 65:12
 76:4 81:10,10 85:10 101:7
tons 113:15
top 14:22,25 20:21 57:2 80:5
topic 7:6 83:18,21 124:16
topsoil 74:15 93:13
tornadoes 87:23 88:2 104:23
tossed 121:17
totally 56:2
touch 121:4
touched 121:4
tourism 11:15 60:6 82:22
tourists 82:25
town 1:14 2:13 5:24 7:12 8:21
 9:3,11,13,14,15,16,17,19,20
 9:22,25,25 10:12,13,17,24
 11:3 12:23 13:2,3,4,6,7,10,12
 13:19,24 15:4,7,8,13 17:8,20
 17:21 18:2,2,9,11,13,15 22:22
 22:24 24:15,17 31:14 32:11,13
 33:9 34:2 35:25 36:2 39:2,5
 40:15 42:16,20 44:18,23 47:5
 48:20 51:3,4,25 52:16 53:14
 58:24 59:5,15 60:7,12 67:9
 73:9,16 75:7 76:11 77:5 82:21
 91:19 92:5,9,17,18 95:12 97:3
 100:6,11 101:16 103:25 104:13
 105:13 111:12,21 116:13 124:6
 124:14
town's 15:12 34:4
towns 10:15 11:24 15:22,25 16:5
 82:8
toxic 105:9 115:2,19
toxins 31:15 113:20
track 44:25 53:18 87:22
tracking 70:10 71:17
tracks 71:16
tractor 82:21
tractors 82:11
trade 44:9 61:2

traffic 32:19,25
training 33:18
tranquility 59:14
transcribed 46:3
transcript 14:19
transcription 126:6
transfer 30:6 57:2
transformed 92:11
transformer 74:20
transmission 1:6 2:22 3:16,22
 3:25 5:15 65:24
transparent 123:10
transplant 99:2
transportation 5:21
trash 121:14,20
travel 13:17 123:14
traveled 123:23
treated 124:22
trees 33:9 89:17
trembling 101:2
Tri-Valley 82:13
trickle 113:20
tried 75:18 124:17
trim 33:9
truck 32:21 33:2
trucks 13:15 109:12
true 47:16,16 55:8 64:18 101:19
 126:7
truly 64:22 67:12
Trustee 75:23
truth 26:13,14,14 35:17,18
 48:19 63:7 104:3 112:6 114:3
 114:3
try 93:8 107:4
trying 44:25 46:5 71:4 75:21
 79:19 98:21 99:5 100:24
 106:22 123:19
turbines 65:22 88:7
turn 68:21 100:22
turned 75:13
twelve 30:19
twenty 20:14,15,16,16 21:22
 36:6 60:17 88:6 90:9 92:2,5
 113:13 122:3
twenty- 88:6
twenty-eight 42:22
twenty-five 43:15,18 47:23 76:8
 78:3 94:2 117:7 118:15 122:3
twenty-four 67:22 88:18
twenty-nine 102:9

twenty-seven 101:18
twenty-six 33:14 65:5,13 76:23
twenty-two 22:17
two 2:5,6,6,6,12 3:6 14:16
 15:11 16:23 23:25 37:19 43:9
 54:3,12 65:4 71:22 76:23
 77:22 78:7 82:5,21 83:14
 86:18 90:8,8 91:4,11 93:25
 96:17 97:2 98:25 101:13,13
 102:14 117:3 123:24 124:14
type 76:18
types 13:21 26:2 117:20
typewritten 126:6
typical 97:14
typically 43:7

U

U-R-E 100:22
U.S 61:22
U.S.D.A 102:13,21,24
U.T.V 75:10
Uh-huh 49:18
ultimately 44:3
unable 69:14
unbiased 62:7
underground 34:14
understand 4:6 12:7 24:23 35:9
 52:10,12 58:5 63:24 98:4,19
 98:19,23 99:4,5,6,12,18,21
 100:3,9,9 118:24 123:25
understanding 63:6 78:17 124:14
understatement 91:6
undesired 54:6
unduly 77:16
unfortunately 79:23
unhappy 70:9
UNIDENTIFIED 50:14,19
uniform 46:15
union 26:4 90:7 94:13
unique 73:22
United 101:11
University 53:23
unknown 14:3,6 20:9 57:5
unknowns 55:8
unmatched 44:16
unreasonably 46:22
unrecognizable 92:10
unreliable 65:14
unsustainable 10:9
untested 55:9

unused 119:11
updates 123:17
upgrades 89:7
ups 35:3
upset 77:11 120:3
upsetting 115:17
Upstate 20:13,18,23 21:2,3,19
 22:12,16 66:16 93:3 100:5
 109:7
urban 93:20
usable 72:15
usage 20:13
use 5:21 11:4 16:14 18:17,24
 30:3,4,7 31:11,21 37:10 38:19
 51:16 52:2,6 53:22 72:21
 89:15
uses 11:12 34:16 56:9
usually 87:19 88:6
utility 75:10 87:18,19 88:17
 89:4 93:22
utterly 92:11

V

V-I-D-U-L-I-C-H 95:11 98:18
Valley 22:13 95:16 96:8
valuable 103:24 111:9
value 41:9 43:6,18 53:23 55:22
 58:6,7 60:6 118:17 119:6
valued 109:6
values 41:6 42:23,24 43:15
 44:10,18 76:21 108:20
Van 117:2
variability 55:6
vast 11:25
vegetation 13:8
vegetative 33:7
vehicle 75:10
vehicles 13:16,17,21
veins 44:3
vendors 107:7
verbal 4:13 85:7
verbally 70:8
verifying 101:24
Verona 88:12
version 44:11
versus 72:13,23
vested 82:8
viability 54:23 56:8
viable 21:19 24:9 91:15
Vidulich 90:17,17 95:8,9,11

98:14,16,17,18
view 9:25,25 11:11 13:9 46:22
 60:12 69:20 108:16,17 110:21
 124:17
views 6:3 82:23 108:19 123:25
 124:25
Viewscape 110:19
VIII 1:11
village 47:5 75:23
Virginia 109:10
visible 13:5,11
vision 15:13
visit 115:11
visited 123:4
visual 5:22 87:6
vital 124:6
vitamin 100:4
voice 4:25 19:24 61:5
voices 23:23
void 89:9 122:8
volatile 111:8
vote 116:14,14,14,20
voted 92:11
vulnerability 57:16

W

W-A-D-S-W-O-R-T-H 52:23
Wadsworth 41:20 52:21,22,23
 53:7 58:17 67:2 70:12,13,14
wait 29:8
waiting 8:11,18 13:8 110:3
waived 17:9,10,11
waiver 6:2 34:13
waivers 11:8 16:5
wake 119:13
Walt 27:15,18 28:9
want 4:16 6:12 13:3,4,7 15:24
 18:19 27:3,4 28:8,19,21 29:5
 35:9 37:8,11 38:10 39:4 42:3
 45:25 49:22 55:24 58:9 62:5
 67:22 68:15 71:3 78:14 81:10
 81:12,15,18 83:18,21 87:17
 89:18 90:22 94:18 95:10 98:6
 98:8,8,20 99:23 100:4,10,10
 100:11 101:7 104:14 110:18
 111:12 115:4,5 116:15 117:13
 117:15,16,17,21 119:7,22
 121:3 124:11 125:15
wanted 73:20 87:9 98:18 99:21
wanting 35:5 98:5

wants 95:5 118:18	wheels 30:25
warehouse 28:20 91:21	WHEREOF 126:10
warehouses 92:3,5	Whiteman 12:5,10 15:4 22:22,23
warns 71:19	22:24 23:2,6,9 86:5,6,10
wasn't 39:6 62:3	wholesale 31:2
waste 55:8 113:15 115:2	wide 33:14 123:25
wasteful 66:14	wider 124:22
wasteland 94:5	wife 73:17 81:9
watching 103:21	wildlife 5:20 44:16 48:2 51:6
water 5:19 16:16,20,25 17:3	58:8 64:5 108:19
31:16 33:20 43:23,25 44:3,6	Willie 88:25
51:23 57:25 58:4 74:12 101:23	willing 61:2 110:14
113:11,17 115:22	willingness 13:20 124:24 125:7
watering 16:19	wind 64:13,21 65:22 66:15 88:7
way 10:10 11:14 15:2 22:5,7	104:23,23 116:2,2
24:16 26:23 27:19 28:6,9,15	winter 55:5
31:6 33:10 48:2 57:9 61:4	wish 7:7,20 72:11
68:19 69:20 91:9 100:15	wishing 125:16
107:23 109:5,12 121:13	WITNESS 126:10
ways 97:13	wolverines 48:7
wayside 74:8	wonderful 106:21
we'll 62:19 76:2 78:8 79:18	word 59:9
86:8 101:4,5 120:18	words 4:21 46:25
we're 4:2 7:18 13:25 15:23	wore 23:13
17:11,12 19:17 37:21,23 39:15	work 15:2 20:14 27:21 33:24,25
41:8 48:12,13,13 52:16 62:15	47:4 48:9 63:21 66:15 67:22
65:19 73:3 76:22 77:8 79:19	78:11 80:7 87:6 90:8,10 95:23
79:22,23 81:5,8,14 85:16,23	106:11,21 110:16 116:5 118:20
93:19 94:17 98:7 99:5 108:12	118:21 123:13
109:6,13 113:3,6 114:24 116:6	worked 52:11 63:25 95:18 117:11
116:12,23 122:17	121:9 122:24
we've 20:3,3 35:22 41:6 48:7,7	workers 26:6 82:6,7 94:13
48:8 51:24 59:6 87:20 107:21	workforce 25:20
109:8 117:11	working 9:14,15,17 14:4,8 59:19
wear 75:23	71:12 80:11,17 97:7 121:5,10
weather 55:5	121:11
web 6:14	works 84:4
website 5:5 6:7	world 19:14 27:5 63:21
week 108:24	worn 23:10
weekend 100:5	worth 85:15
weeks 71:25	wouldn't 56:5 91:23
weight 85:7	wounds 112:23
welcome 2:15 85:3	wreck 92:18
welder 67:14	writing 7:20
well-being 53:9 60:25	written 4:12,14 7:15 26:23 29:7
wells 16:19,21 41:3 44:4 57:22	49:21 50:12 85:4,6 101:17
75:2	112:5 125:16
went 87:15	wrong 39:5
west 80:13	wrote 45:4 71:4,24 78:24
wetlands 5:19 34:9 38:23,25	

x		125 126:7	
y		146 38:9	
yards 34:7,8		1519 58:21	
yeah 12:15 25:13 26:18 28:23		157 25:15,16,20,25 53:15	
37:23 38:10,13 50:2 79:11		1600s 29:15	
120:14,20		161 24:17 58:21	
year 19:14 21:14,22 36:18 58:3		16th 100:7 125:17	
65:17 68:14,14 69:7 79:20		17th 100:7	
88:2,7,7,19 108:7 110:22		1856 97:3	
113:13		1905 97:4	
years 9:22 10:12 11:19 13:7		1970 27:8	
17:21,22,24 18:3 19:6 21:5,7		1978 103:10	
21:20,21,24 22:2 23:19 26:24		2	
27:7 28:6,13 32:12 35:16,21		2000 101:17	
35:22,23,24 36:3,7 37:2 42:22		2000s 118:6	
44:14 45:3 50:13 51:2 58:24		2005 30:16	
60:18 61:20 63:25 72:2 73:19		2014 122:12	
80:3,12 90:8,10 93:2,14 96:9		2018 87:12	
101:22 103:20 106:7 111:17		2019 30:18 102:19 123:5	
118:2 122:3,3 123:20,24		2020 43:3 84:15 123:5	
yield 13:20		2023 32:21 123:7 126:11	
York 1:2,11,19 2:10 5:9 9:9		2024 88:24 100:7 123:9	
10:18,24 20:13,18,23 21:2,3		2025 1:17 2:5 3:10 4:24 5:9,10	
21:19 22:12,16 24:9 26:3		6:19 125:17	
31:17 32:10,11 33:13 40:14		21st 66:8	
63:19 64:7 65:15 66:12,16		23-02972 1:1,8 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1	
69:9 71:8 74:11 88:16,22 91:4		6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1	
93:3 97:7 100:6 102:2,4,20		12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1	
103:4 105:5 106:7,14 108:21		18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1	
108:25 109:2,5 117:13 118:22		24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1	
119:4,4,12,19 126:2		30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1	
York's 25:20		36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1	
young 27:9 107:25 110:10 117:3		42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1	
z		48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1	
zero 2:6 71:21 80:3 100:18		54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1	
122:4		60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1	
Zeryai 2:21 3:16		66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1	
Zillow 99:25		72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1	
0		78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1	
07:44 85:21		84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1	
08:00 85:22		90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1	
1		96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1	
1 126:5,7		101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1	
112 1:18		106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1	
11th 5:10		111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1	
		116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1	
		121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1	
		126:1	
		238 9:9	

250-Megawatt 1:13**28** 1:17 32:23**28th** 2:4 3:10 4:24 100:7

3

30th 6:19**31st** 103:10

4

5

5/28/2025 1:1 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1

6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1

12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1

18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1

24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1

30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1

36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1

42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1 47:1

48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1 52:1 53:1

54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1 59:1

60:1 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1

66:1 67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1

72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1

78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1

84:1 85:1 86:1 87:1 88:1 89:1

90:1 91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1

96:1 97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1

101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1 105:1

106:1 107:1 108:1 109:1 110:1

111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1 115:1

116:1 117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1

121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1

126:1

5th 126:11

6

6:02 1:17 2:2**6th** 5:8

7

70s 22:10

8

8:51 125:20**80s** 22:10

9

90 32:23**94C** 53:21