

Lawtons Solar Project

-Fire Protection issues wherein fire could not be controlled with water and access must accommodate fire engines and be paved because land is very wet. The tech to control a fire is expensive and should be paid for by solar projects. The panels will cover 50% of the surface area of the 50 plus acre project.

-Must protect town water supply and aquifer that supply wells and village water system.

-Components are made in China and are of poor quality that leach toxins over time.

-Clean Choice Energy is a multinational corporation with headquarters in Washington DC that sells these solar project as a commodity to the highest bidder and are built on speculation yet seek huge local tax breaks. If these projects fail or become unprofitable they will be abandoned with the local tax payer to pick up the expense of cleanup.

-This is a 20 million dollar project sold as a solar farm but in reality is simple big business taking advantage of small communities not set up to deal with the complexity of regulating these projects. Clean Choice Energy has papered the Town of North Collins with 100-page plus email and a stack of submissions some 18 inch tall in the town clerk's office.

-Landowners receive between \$1000 to \$1800 per acre for rent per year which makes farmers unable to compete for land to produce crops or feed their livestock. Solar project will increase the cost of leasing land and result in higher food prices and force real farmers out of business.

-Lawtons Solar project is on land that is farmland and hay is harvested every summer. The land is wet but dries in the summer to harvest the hay but too wet to be used as a solar project. The current natural drainage of the lands are stressed and the solar project will drain their leased lands at the expense of neighboring properties causing drainage issues to home and other farm land that is adjacent to this solar project.

-Town of North Collins is currently in the process of enacting a farmland protection legislation. North Collins has been a farming community since its beginning. Impact on wildlife would be detrimental to all creatures from frogs, wood cocks and bald eagles which inhabit these wetlands.

-300 foot setbacks should be followed for all property boundaries and area variances should not be granted because the Lawtons solar project hardships are self-imposed. In May 2022, clean choice energy proposed to build a 5 megawatt project but then doubled the size of the project to 10 megawatt with a foot print of over 50 acres in August 2022. Clear Choice Energy should be required to conform their project to our current solar law not ask to bend the rules simply to meet their greed.

In sum New York State has doomed our state to failure by putting all our hopes in one source of energy being electricity which cannot be sustained by the current system. Climate change legislation is being force fed to our state with little thought of how it really will affect our state with a 20 year matrix rather than a 100 year matrix which our own governor is recommending but the extremist will hear nothing of it. When our power goes out from a storm we will be left to freeze because they want to ban wood, natural gas, coal, propane and oil as a source of heat and electricity. China, Russia and India continue to pollute without any restrictions while the United States and Europe are saddled with restrictions that are not thought out of the real impact on its citizens.