

May 4, 2020

Operations Committee: 4-20-2020

RESOLUTION NO. 132-2020

ENCOURAGING ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY LAND OWNERS TO USE MARGINAL LANDS AND TO UTILIZE THE ADVICE OF THE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRIOR TO THE SALE OF LANDS OR WHEN SIGNING LEASES FOR LARGE-SCALE SOLAR ARRAYS

By Mr. Denesha, Chair, Operations Committee
Co-Sponsored by Mr. Acres, District 8

WHEREAS, the market value of agricultural products grown in St. Lawrence County was \$191 million in 2017, and

WHEREAS, the success of the farming industry in the County relies on the availability of productive soils to grow food and products, and

WHEREAS, the presence of prime, and prime drained soils, is limited to nineteen percent (19%) of all land in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, large-scale solar arrays typically require five to seven acres of cleared, flat and dry land for every megawatt of power they generate, and

WHEREAS, the County Planning Board has reviewed fourteen (14) solar projects over the past decade that have or will displace 609 acres of farmland, and

WHEREAS, the rural character of St. Lawrence County, affordable real estate prices, the presence of high voltage transmission lines and the energy policies of the State will continue to attract the siting large-scale solar arrays on farmland,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators encourages landowners to use their marginal lands and to utilize the advice of the Soil & Water Conservation District prior to the sale of lands or when signing leases for large-scale solar arrays, and to preserve productive farmland for future agricultural use, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to allow for continued agricultural activity, solar developers are encouraged to design arrays so that sheep grazing and/or apiaries can occur at solar lease sites, and funding agencies, the St. Lawrence County Planning Board and municipal planning boards should recommend such design, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that solar developers, funding agencies and local governments are encouraged to arrange community solar agreements so that local residents and businesses can take advantage of lower electricity bills, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that large-scale solar arrays that are established to sell energy to the grid shall be subject to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes during the fifteen (15) year exemption that is available for solar energy systems.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE)

I, Kelly S. Pearson, Deputy Clerk of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that I have compared this Resolution No. 132-2020 entitled “Encouraging St. Lawrence County Land Owners to Use Marginal Lands and to Utilize the Advice of the Soil & Water Conservation District Prior to the Sale of Lands or When Signing Leases for Large-Scale Solar Arrays”, adopted May 4, 2020, with the original record in this office and that the same is a correct transcript thereof and of the whole of said original record.

Kelly S. Pearson
Kelly S. Pearson, Deputy Clerk
St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators
May 5, 2020