



STERLING FOREST PARTNERSHIP, INC.

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March 10, 2015

Mr. Gedalye Szegedin, Village Administrator
Village of Kiryas Joel Board of Trustees
51 Forest Road
Monroe, NY 10950

Sir,

In 2014, in the case of the Genting casino proposal, the Sterling Forest Partnership challenged the propriety of the Tuxedo Town Board serving as lead agency in the environmental review process. We discerned an intolerable conflict of interest, given that the Board stood to gain financially in return for a positive determination.

We see a very similar configuration in the case of the Village of Kiryas Joel serving as lead agency in the environmental review process leading to the annexation of 507 acres from the Town of Monroe.

The Village Trustees cannot impartially consider the environmental impact of the projected development, when that development is their stated objective.

The history of environmental disregard on the part of the Village of Kiryas Joel and its citizens does not inspire confidence in the competence of the Village to act as lead agency in any sort of environmental review (witness the fines levied on the Kiryas Joel Meat Market and the Kiryas Joel Poultry Processing Plant in 2014).

We notice that the scoping document calls for little or no consideration of impacts to local aquifers and surface water resources. The fundamental question of the cumulative effects of increased groundwater withdrawals and wastewater discharges within the Ramapo River Watershed is not explored. Wastewater in the Ramapo will have serious consequences on this important source of drinking water in a series of downstream communities and on wildlife.

For the reasons noted in this letter, we submit that the Village of Kiryas Joel Trustees are disqualified from serving as lead agency and are proceeding in violation of the letter and spirit of SEQRA. In this regard, we reserve our rights to challenge in subsequent forums, including in the courts, any decision that the Trustees may make under SEQRA or other applicable law that approves or would facilitate approval of the annexation to the Village of Kiryas Joel.

For the Partnership,

Rodger Friedman, Chair