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Date: March 4, 2015 at 6:30:27 PM AST
To: <tim@timillerassociates.com>
Subject: Public scoping of 507 acres
Reply-To: "Valerie & Joe Prunty" <vprunty@hvc.rr.com>

I have owned my home in Washingtonville for 25 years the growth rate of my town as well as many others here in Orange County has happened at a reasonable rate, but no where Kiryas Joel. The unrestrained growth of this population can not continue, and to allow this would be a travesty to the environment of all of Orange County. The blatant disregard for the environment has been seen many times. Wetlands, clean water act sustainable solutions have never been on their agenda. You can look at the violation that the DEC has found and how few have been corrected without close follow up or additional charges. The consistent lack of regard for the environment still often bogging down local municipalities in court to change zoning for higher density. Yet they have stated no proposed plans for this 507 acres is obviously not true look at the 2010 census for the area they already occupy compare that to the 2000 then add the additional 507 acres. This is NOT sustainable growth

Now we are facing a proposed 507 acre annexation. Rural residential zoning protects the community from over-development. The land in question is zoned for single-family homes, not high rise condominiums and apartments. It allows for growth and development at a reasonable rate. If this land were to be annexed out of the Town of Monroe and into the Village of Kiryas Joel, the zoning changes drastically and immediately. This creates a huge environmental impact on traffic, pollution, wildlife – not to mention an already overburdened sewer system. Removing trees and replacing them with asphalt damages the ecosystem. Effluent in the Ramapo River affects the quality of life for Orange County, Rockland County and beyond. We cannot even begin to imagine the enormous impact this proposed annexation would have on every facet of life in the Hudson Valley – destruction of nature, removal of wildlife habitat, changes in climate, pollution of drinking water and drain of resources.

Quite simply – annexation must only be approved if it benefits all parties as a whole not just one group. The one that the land is annexed from, and the one the land is annexed into. In this case there is zero benefit to the Town of Monroe as well as the county of Orange. They neighborly consideration was shown by this lead agency last night. While weather was hazardous and several local officials (James Skoufis, Karl Brabenec and Steve Neuhaus) requested they cancel due to weather they not only did not respond to the request but did hold the meeting putting lives in jeopardy

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