

From: Andrea Trust [<mailto:trust2kids@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 5:42 PM
To: tim@timmlerassociates.com
Subject: 507 Annexation Petition Scoping Session - Comments/Concerns

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please find attached my comments/concerns which I could not deliver to the scoping session due to inclement weather.

It was rather ridiculous that it was held albeit the hazardous driving conditions on every street in Orange County, NY.

I had sent my research document to DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens indicating the concerns for why KJ should not be named Lead Agent in the '507' Annexation Petition . The same facts and information hold true at this time. This document had been signed by 242 people as an online Petition. So, it's not just me standing behind these facts and information: there are 241 other people in total agreement with my research.

The second document is the foundation for our country which This Annexation (as well as the 164) hurts and destroys. Our basic rights are being violated and I wanted to make sure that these are considered thoroughly during the D/FGEIS.

I would like to add both these documents to be a part of the 507 scoping session. WE All know why ANY Annexation the Village of Kiryas Joel wants should not be allowed. We know this should have a Positive declaration. We believe that the residents of KJ did not voluntarily come forth to pursue this Annexation (or the other) and just do what they are told..

Best regards,

Andrea Trust
49 Orion Avenue
Monroe, NY 10950

Mr. Joseph Martens, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

The Town of Monroe ("Town") attracts families from all over the NY/NJ area because of its rural nature, natural beauty and surrounding areas. The NYS Thruway, Route 17 and Interstate 84 make this area heavily travelled through Monroe to the mountains to summer homes. In addition, the location of Woodbury Common Premium Outlets ("Commons"), one of the most productive shopping destinations in the world, at the junction of the NYS Thruway and terminus of Route 17 makes Monroe a tourist destination. Increased travel is expected due to the current expansion to 240 stores and over 900,000 square feet.

Nestled between Schunnemunk Mountains, Goosepond Mountain State Park, Highland Lakes State Park, Sterling Forest, Stewart State Forest, Harriman State Park and Storm King State Park resides the "Town." Because small, isolated habitats are unlikely to maintain viable populations over the long-term, and because climate change and disturbances require that organisms be able to move over large distances, corridors are recommended as an important conservation measure to counter the negative effects of habitat fragmentation and isolation.

Five of seven recommendations for landscape connections included in the Orange County Open Space Plan (2004) encompass the "Town": between Goosepond Mountain to Sterling Forest, Goosepond Mountain to Schunnemunk Mountain, Schunnemunk Mountain to Stewart State Forest, Otter Kill/Moodna Creek corridor, and stream corridors throughout the Watershed. This emphasizes the importance the SEQR environmental review process is to guarantee minimal impact on all our biological resources.

The "Town" has a total area of 21.3 square miles, of which, 20.1 square miles is land and 1.2 square miles (5.55%) is water. The 2010 US Bureau of the Census population was 39,912. The projected 2020 population is 52,137. Within the Town is the Village of Kiryas Joel ("Village") which is 1.1 square miles with a population of 20,175 in 2010. Orange County reported that the change in the population from 2000-2010 increased by almost 55%.: an unprecedented population explosion, with no end in sight. The projected 2020 "Village" population is 33,994. ⁽¹⁾ The unbridled burden on the taxpayers of the Monroe-Woodbury School District will increase with the population.

With the threat of an annexation of 500+ acres and Planned Unit Developments (PUD) Districts increasing housing capabilities, there is grave concern for adequate water, increased effluent,

increased traffic and air pollution and a direct negative impact on the environmental health of our own and neighboring towns and communities.

The “Village” puts an unreasonably heavy strain on the current resources of our entire region with customary use of mid-rise housing. It is anticipated that the use of PUDs (6 story, high density housing) within a small land mass will increase density by 50%. However, it is not known what impact the explosive growth has already done to the Public Wellhead Protection Areas located within the “Village.” The Orange County Water Authority data was made public in 1993 when it had a population of 8500. Although the “Town” is included in the proposed growth area, the 500+ acres in the Annexation Petition are NOT included in the municipal water service area.

The “Town” is located within the Passaic River Basin boundaries while the Ramapo River is a selected priority watershed.

Passaic River Institute director, Meiyin Wu, stressed “... Urban development, pollution, natural and agricultural processes, wildlife and changes in water movement all dramatically impact the flow and quality of water throughout the area.” He goes on to say, “Pavement materials on roads, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots create impervious surfaces which seal the soil surface, eliminating rainwater infiltration and the recharge of underground groundwater aquifers.”⁽³⁾

“The Ramapo and its associated aquifer have been declared a ‘Sole Source’ of drinking water for the community of Mahwah, NJ. A total of two million people living and/or working in Rockland County, NY, and northern New Jersey rely on the Ramapo aquifer. The watershed, in Orange County, includes the Towns of Blooming Grove, Monroe, Tuxedo and Woodbury, and the Villages of Harriman, Monroe and Tuxedo Park. Protection of this priority water bodies ... It is of utmost importance to ensure a maximum of natural land cover within these watersheds and minimize the amounts of runoff and other pollutants that are discharged into the ground or onto the ground surface.”⁽²⁾

Reported February 2013 in the *ELEVATED SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE LEVELS of an unnamed tributary of the Ramapo River, Town of Monroe, NY*: “As of September 2012, specific conductance levels at station 4089_005 continue to substantially exceed the NYS DEC’s level of concern (800 µS/cm). The Kiryas Joel wastewater treatment plant was implicated as the

primary source of specific conductance in 2008 and it is likely that the plant's discharge is continuing to negatively impact downstream waterbodies, including the unnamed tributary of the Ramapo River where site 4089_005 is located." This attests to the "Village's" indifference to health and safety of their neighbors.

The Moodna Creek Watershed sub-basins, Seely Brook and Trout Brook envelop the "Town." Seely Brook covers 18.98 square miles while Trout Brook covers 6.37 square miles. Eventually, all streams in the County end up in the Hudson, Delaware or Passaic Rivers. Recognizing that everyone lives in a watershed and that rain falling on land eventually drains into a stream, river, lake or ocean, it is not hard to understand why the actions we take on land could easily have an impact on the health and quality of our most important water resources.

Development creates a negative feedback loop with groundwater supplies. Land development increases not only impervious surface ... but also the human demand on the existing water supply through the creation of new homes, industries, businesses and other facilities that require potable water. Groundwater resources may then be compromised or eliminated due to the decrease in groundwater recharge and the increase in water withdrawals from wells. The more land that is developed, the higher the demand for potable water is; yet the opportunities for groundwater recharge are fewer because of increased impervious surfaces due to storm-water runoff. "Village" Code (§ 155-21 Section C(3)(g)) is not specified about control for storm-water runoff which leads to flooding and damages to other peoples' properties within and down slope of these developments. The attitude is indicative of their disrespect for our mutually shared resources and environment.

The 1996 NYS DEC Priority Water Bodies List for Orange County lists the condition of two of the larger lakes in the Town: Mombasha Lake as "Threatened" by "urban runoff" and Walton Lake as "Stressed" by "On-site systems." The Village of Monroe gets their drinking water from Mombasha Lake. Walton Lake serves the Village of Chester and is identified as a reservoir in the Moodna Watershed by the Orange County Water Authority. ⁽⁴⁾

A "key finding" of the Orange County Final Draft Water Master Plan (2010) was the "Village" water demand will exceed supply by 2018 based on the current population growth. The supply indicated as 1,928,800 while the demand for water as 2,020,699 yielding a deficit of 91,899 gallons per day.

□ "Village" Code □ § 155-21 Section C(3)(a) states: "Developments of 50 units or more shall provide 1/2 acre of playground area per 50 units unless restricted to adult

occupancy only.” Given that each family has between 6 and 8 children, possibly 400 children, on any given day, could share a ½ acre playground. If the development falls short of the 50 units, would the “Village” set aside any space, albeit meager, for a playground? □ This will lead to overcrowding and enormous damage to the environment.

Given the vast amount of land that would be converted to housing, paved streets and sidewalks, and the minimal attention to recreation, aesthetics and benefits to the environment, it behooves the DEC to take Lead Agency status or Co-Lead with an interested and involved agency Monroe-Woodbury Central School District (MWCS D) to perform the SEQ R. These are the only two agencies that are capable of providing the most thorough environmental assessment of the proposed annexation of 500+ acres as well as having the broadest governmental powers for investigation into potential impacts.

	Name	From	Comments
1.	Andrea Trust	Monroe, NY	DEC, Please take SEQ R Lead Agency or Co-Lead with MWSD Board of Education
2.	Margaret Neubauer	Monroe, NY	
3.	Liz Ridgeway	Monroe, NY	
4.	Peter Neubauer	Monroe, NY	
5.	Venice Gratta	Monroe, NY	This unique situation requires an investigation by a neutral party. It is the only way it will be done fairly and legally.
6.	Margaret Kazdan	Monroe, NY	
7.	Diana Wilson	Goshen, NY	
8.	frank baldassare	monroe, NY	make the most sense
9.	NICK WARHOLAK	MONROE, NY	
10.	Sam Dyson	Sunshine Coast, Australia	
11.	Ana MESNER	Ljubljana, Slovenia	
12.	Eileen Duffy	Monroe, NY	
13.	Debbie Davis	Beech Grove, IN	
15.	Ellen Ames	Harriman, NY	
16.	Kelly Braunagel	Monroe, NY	
17.	Julia O'Reilly	Highland Mills, NY	Our way of life is at stake. If KJ is allowed to lead on their own project this town will be completely destroyed!
18.	Susan Pendergast	Monroe, NY	
19.	Seth Reese	Monroe, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
20.	Kathleen Pelcin	Monroe, NY	
21.	Aimee PerriBrown	Monroe, NY	
22.	Ellen Stuart	Harriman, NY	
23.	craig pelcin	monroe, NY	
24.	Laura Saxon	Morrison, FL	
25.	Valerie Robinson	Washingtonville, NY	If you don't have an interest in this, you ought to move. You'll want to, anyway, if the DEC and MW don't get Lead Agency Status.
26.	Phyllis Ingigneri	NY, NY	
28.	Megan Andersen	Monroe, NY	
29.	Eric Andersen	Monroe, NY	
30.	Robin Liss	Harriman, NY	
32.	brian bontemps	monroe, NY	
33.	JEFFREY MAGLIONE	WURTSBORO, NY	Although I do not live in the area, my son and his mother do. This take over of land will also have an effect on a similar situation that the residents of my town are currently dealing with.
34.	Joe Renneke	Savage, MN	
35.	Angela Traina	Monroe, NY	
36.	Cheryl Doheny	Monroe, NY	
37.	eve Vargas	Harriman, NY	
38.	john weiser	Phillipsport, NY	
39.	Leslie Maier	Monroe, NY	Neither Kiryas Joel nor the Monroe Town Board can be trusted to make a fair judgment here. Please, DEC, take on the SEQR lead status.
40.	Agnes Burch	Monroe, NY	
41.	Karen Manzi	Monroe, NY	
42.	Sara Pastorello	Monroe, NY	
43.	Frans Badenhorst	Potchefstroom, South Africa	
44.	Corinne Brown	Tuxedo, NY	i feel there is favoritism to the KJ community and they will not be held to the same standards the rest of the community would be - this needs to be taken seriously and dealt with fairly.
45.	Doreen Braunagel	Monroe, NY	
46.	Eileen Warbrick	Tallman, NY	
47.	Penelope Roberts	Monroe, NY	
48.	Diane Stiglianese	Monroe, NY	
49.	Patricia Gillman	Monroe, NY	
50.	Julie Piazza	Monroe, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
51.	Edwin Gerlach	Highland Mills, NY	Village of KJ is known for high density housing, which will have a negative impact on the surrounding area, both environmentally and financially. I do not believe they or the Monroe Town Board would make a fair judgement.
52.	Amanda Pulido	Monroe, NY	
53.	Anita Reich	Highland Mills, NY	
54.	Frank Scott	loch sheldrake, NY	This Cult is LAWLESS, and will trample everyone's rights without skipping a beat... Someone needs to show them the free ride is over and they MUST abide by the laws of this country and stop making their own laws...
55.	Debbie Behringer	Monroe, NY	
56.	Joyce Smith	Monroe, NY	
57.	Richard Molino	Monroe, NY	
58.	Joseph Wenzel	West Saint Paul, MN	
59.	Kimberly Mantineo	Monroe, NY	
60.	Diane LeViseur	Monroe, NY	
61.	Suzanne Leale	Monroe, NY	
63.	Jennifer Schneider	Monroe, NY	
64.	Kathleen Hipsman	Monroe, NY	
65.	Maethese Cassar	Gudja, Malta	
66.	Kevin Scully	Monroe, NY	
67.	christina mccarthy	monroe, NY	
68.	Aileen Silver	Monroe, NY	
69.	karen hall	monroe, NY	
70.	Angela Suarez	Monroe, NY	
71.	Lisa Kisner	Monroe, NY	
72.	Laura Duggan	Monroe, NY	
73.	Margaret Struhar	Monroe, NY	
74.	Had Enough	Monroe, NY	
75.	Linda O'Sullivan	Harriman, NY	
76.	john higgins	monroe, NY	
77.	Mary Utter	Chester, NY	
78.	Robert Nottman	Monroe, NY	
79.	Helen Braunagel	Monroe, NY	
80.	Dolores Perri	Washingtonvill, NY	
81.	Barbara Slifkin	Monroe, NY	
82.	Edward White	Monroe, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
83.	Patricia Kahn	Bloomingsburg, NY	
84.	Jeff Oehme	Monroe, NY	
85.	Martin Soss	Monroe, NY	
86.	Mary Ch	Toronto, Canada	Please watch shows "Planet Earth : Our Loving Home" on www.suprememastertv.com
87.	Richard Collins	Circleville, NY	Please DEC, take SEQR Environmental Impact Assessment Lead Agency status or at least Co-Lead with MWSD.
88.	Shiobain Cioffi	Middletown, NY	
89.	Dianne Serpico	Monroe, NY	
90.	Andrea Forlini	Monroe, NY	
91.	Andrew Warren	Middletown, NY	Please step in and take on lead agency status on this proposal to annex land to the village of Kiryas Joel. It is in the best interest of everyone in Orange County that an independent party honestly evaluate this project and complete the SEQR environmental impact statement forms. Thank you.
92.	Fank Giraldi	Wedtbrookville, NY	
93.	Paulette Browne	Monroe, NY	
94.	Carol Gillen	Middletown, NY	
95.	gina jacobsen	highland mills, NY	I want to remain in this area for I have sown my roots here in 1984. I live in close proximity to the Village of KJ and if this annexation happens, it will not only impact the environment, but my faith in the legal system. I urge them to form their own Town and become fiscally responsible.
96.	willlam klinzman	monroe, NY	
97.	Carolyn Pidgeon	harriman, NY	
98.	birgit peretz	berlin, Germany	
99.	Stacy Mongello	Monroe, NY	
100.	Justin Mongello	Monroe, NY	
101.	janet gorgone	monroe, NY	I have already felt some of the impact--loss of water in wells on my street(including one collapsed well) because wells dug by the municipality of Kiryas Joel in the Town of Monroe were drawing more water from the wells then they were legally supposed to. Burying of construction debris adjacent to a creek that empties in to the Ramapo river that was not stopped. Odors of sewage frequently observed within a 1/2 mile of the KJ Sewage Treatment Plant on Bakertown Road. Please, the DEC must protect law abiding citizens!!!
102.	James Wolcott	Evansville, IN	
103.	Lynn Abellonio	Monroe, NY	
104.	Catherine Turner	Circleville, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
105.	Astrid Delbue	Monroe, NY	
106.	Cynthia Deretchin	Circleville, NY	
108.	Anthony Deserto	Middletown, NY	
109.	christina degeorge	pine bush, NY	
110.	kevin doherty	monroe, NY	
111.	Michael Pidgeon	Harriman, NY	
112.	Sandra Keltai	Monroe, NY	
113.	Scott Walnicki	Monroe, NY	
114.	Sylvia Peters	Montgomery, NY	
115.	Francis Brennan	Middletown, NY	
116.	Madelyn Heim	Highland mills, NY	
117.	Ali Huntoon	Easton, CT	
118.	Mary Ellen Rivieccio	Monroe, NY	
119.	Anneke Andries	Raamsdonksveer, Netherlands	
120.	Margaret Mayo	Campbell Hall, NY	
121.	Maureen Finnerty	Chester, NY	
122.	Sara Magner	Monroe, NY	
123.	Jason Hurban	new windsor, NY	
124.	Lisa Rivera	Monroe, NY	
125.	Donna McGuire	Monroe, NY	
126.	Randi Silberman	sloatsburg, NY	
127.	karen demario	harriman, NY	
128.	Jeanna Donelan	Monroe, NY	
129.	Lisa Strysko	Garnerville, NY	
130.	Jacqueline Atoa	Newburgh, NY	Do not let another situation like East Ramapo School District happen.
131.	Deana Dovico	Monroe, NY	
132.	Tricia Rawnsley	Highland Mills, NY	This proposed annexation will have major impacts on all Orange County residents, not just the Monroe-Woodbury school district. Please act on behalf of All residents & taxpayers. Thank you.
133.	Laurel Haswell	Goshen, NY	I personally know what has happened to the East Ramapo School District and that has to be prevented here!!
134.	Elsa Ramos	Harriman, NY	
135.	Claire Meese	Monroe, NY	
136.	Linda Holland	Highland Mills, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
137.	albert gonzales	highland mills, NY	My vote counts in the next election!
138.	Ricci Blumenau	Monroe, NY	
139.	Jeanine Kearney	Highland Mills, NY	
140.	Lee Ann Ader	Highland mills, NY	
141.	Kim Johnston	highland mills, NY	
142.	Theresa Budich	Monroe, NY	
143.	Lisa Santiago	Chester, NY	
144.	Eve Grueiro	Monroe, NY	
145.	LISANDRO RIVERA	MONROE, NY	
146.	Wendy Harris	Monroe, NY	
147.	Scott Berliner	Monroe, NY	My whole life is invested in this area. I live here and own a house and a business here. All of this is at stake if we don't protect the assets of the taxpayers
148.	Laura Fernandez	Monroe, NY	
149.	patricia dam	monroe, NY	
150.	Deborah Pedersen	Monroe, NY	
151.	Laura Plotkin	Monroe, NY	
152.	Kim Chiapperino	Highland Mills, NY	
153.	Teresa Prentice	Kent, United Kingdom	
154.	Horacio Fernandez	Monroe, NY	
155.	Doreen Davis Kime	Monroe, NY	
156.	Wilfredo Ramos	Harriman, NY	
157.	Susan McConnell	Highland Mills, NY	
158.	Andrew Rawnsley	Highland Mills, NY	
159.	Manoella Taunton	Staten Island, NY	
160.	Steffanie Jurgens	Monroe, NY	
161.	Jalen Lumia	Malta, NY	please help
162.	Lauren Edmonds	Stony point, NY	
163.	Neil Galvin	Highland Mills, NY	
164.	carol moody	chester, NY	
165.	Danielle Galvin	Highland mills, NY	
166.	Moira Buonannp	Harriman, NY	
167.	Ann Marie Felmley	Monroe, NY	
168.	James Rathbun	Montgomery, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
169.	Maria Sequeiros	Monroe, NY	
170.	Mary Duffy	Monroe, NY	Kiryas Joel should not be the lead in the environmental review. It should be the Monroe-Woodbury School District because this annexation will impact the school district immensely. I'm tired of my tax dollars supporting a "religious" community. They are not devout religious people and are certainly not poverty-stricken. The women wear more diamonds than I can ever imagine my hard-working husband being able to afford. This is a community of piranhas and parasites!
171.	Daniel Rivera	Monroe, NY	
172.	debra willis	highlandmills, NY	
173.	Denise Miranda	NY, NY	
174.	Peggy Hatton	St. Augustine, FL	We recently had to sell our house in Ramapo, Rockland County because of the hostile work tax codes in NY. Our property was greatly devalued by the ongoing, unresolved struggles in the East Ramspo school district. Stop this plight to coming to the neighbors to the North. Stop the overdevelopment, unbridled growth of the private sector that is crushing ER. Stop the madness of the tremendous infrastructure and water needs by this continued growth. It is against the principals of the American dream to take taxes and treasures from one community to give to another community. The corrupt Polichickens should not be the lead agents of this planned destruction. Fairness 4 All!
175.	Veronica Cafarella	Highland Mills, NY	
176.	Kristen Budich	Monroe, NY	
177.	Kathy Lawler	Monroe, NY	
178.	Erin OGrady	Monroe, NY	
179.	Richard Wright	Vero Beach, FL	Stop the annexation!
180.	Rosemary Knapp	Monroe, NY	
181.	Christine Manson	Monroe, NY	
182.	george lane	Highland Mills, NY	
183.	David Miranda	Harriman, NY	
184.	Steven Lee	New City, NY	I live in the East Ramapo school district, what happened here should not be allowed anywhere else in New York or in any other state.
185.	Shannon Giacomazza	Highland mills, NY	
186.	Philip Santiago	Monroe, NY	since K.J. receives more gov. assistance then all of Orange county and the city of Middletown an Newburg put together, how can this be viable? Where is the money going to come from?

	Name	From	Comments
187.	Michelle Griffin Nikiforov	Charlottesville, VA	
188.	Richard Froehlich	Monroe, NY	
189.	Michele Squibb	Stony Point, NY	
190.	Natasha Salgado	Toronto, Canada	
191.	Tom Petersen	Miami, FL	
192.	Bettina Lorenz	Rhede, Germany	
193.	Valeriya Budarina	санкт-петербург, Russian Federation	
194.	walter hall	Vero Beach, FL	
195.	Bonnie McCarthy	Highland Mills, NY	
196.	Stephen Gorgone	Monroe, NY	
197.	Peggy Johnson	Minneapolis, MN	
198.	Rose Sisilli	Monroe, NY	
199.	Cassandra lane	syracuse, NY	
200.	Taylor Gattis	Westlake Village, CA	
201.	Brianna Schaar	Syracuse, NY	
202.	Lauren Banks	Syracuse, NY	
203.	Allyson Vanderclack	Monroe, NY	
204.	Bonnie McKenley	dayton, OH	
205.	shana finnegan	monroe, NY	
206.	Vincent Azzaro	Monroe, NY	
207.	Deborah Monahan	Highland Mills, NY	
208.	nancy mercurio	Monroe, NY	
209.	Lahna Golio	Monroe, NY	
210.	Carroll Lorraine	Highland mills, NY	
211.	Juliette Hernandez	Harriman, NY	
212.	Paul Dillon	Briarcliff Manor, NY	
213.	Shaun Lancaster	Monroe, NY	DEC take Lead Agency status! dont let KJ have anything to do with this!
215.	Henry Mindicino	Monroe, NY	
216.	Kevin Monahan	Highland Mills, NY	Taking a stand for what's right, and fair.
217.	Kathy Keenan	Harriman, NY	
218.	Leigh Bickham	Monroe, NY	
219.	Miriam Vasseur	Pine Bush, NY	
220.	Karen Jones	Monroe, NY	

	Name	From	Comments
221.	Nancy See	Monroe, NY	
222.	JENNIFER DAME	cornwall-on-hudson, NY	
223.	Dana Spano	Cornwall, NY	
224.	Cheryl Smith	Harriman, NY	
225.	Alisa Tice	Harriman, NY	
226.	david spektor	monroe, NY	
227.	Edward Morris	Monroe, NY	The Town Board has been controlled through the bloc vote of Kiryas Joel for years and cannot be impartial in this process. This annexation leads to a drastic increase of high density housing in the area which will further harm the financial, environmental, and educational well-beings of Monroe and the surrounding communities. Kiryas Joel boasts the highest poverty rate in the country, yet their growth is constant, their citizens want for nothing, and they can afford high priced attorneys to try to protect their interests. Neither the Town Board nor the Village of Kiryas Joel can be trusted to perform this review as they are both only interested in one thing, doing exactly what the leadership of Kiryas Joel wants. Please appoint the DEC as lead agency or co-lead agency with MWCSO.
228.	Louis Fallot	Monroe, NY	
229.	Ryan Jordan	Monroe, NY	
230.	Patrick Rafferty	Highland Mills, NY	
231.	Amy Sipper	Chester, NY	
232.	Allison Fullerton	Mahopac, NY	
233.	Anna Beard	Monroe, NY	
234.	Erica Morris	Monroe, NY	
235.	Jenn Pratt	Monroe, NY	
236.	Deborah Andrews	Monroe, NY	SEQRA should NEVER be filled out by the party with the most to gain! It should be filled out by a knowledgeable and impartial 3rd party.
237.	Dominick Gonzalez	Montgomery, NY	
238.	keenan hanson	tuxedo, NY	
239.	Michael Deibler	San Marcos, CA	
240.	Alan Ma	Monroe, NY	
241.	Paul Lundholm	Lyndhurst, NJ	
242.	Mary Eppolito	Highland Mills, NY	

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

www.archives.gov March 10, 2015

The Declaration of Independence: A Transcription

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries

and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.