

Melissa Graham, North Blenheim, NY.  
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137 Creamery Road  
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To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my intense concern and frustration that the Blenheim-Gilboa NYPA will be conducting their socio-economic study comparing the current economic state of our communities to what it would be if the property owned by the NYPA were VACANT LAND. This is preposterous, and a slap in the face to us as host communities. The massive amount of acreage taken up by the NYPA severely decreases our tax base. I acknowledge that they do host some events for the area throughout the year, and do not want to dismiss that effort, especially those who volunteer their time. However, I believe it is fair to state that the accumulated cost of those events in no way equates to the tens of thousands of dollars that they would be paying us if they were a private company. At the very minimum, the property would be owned by private individuals paying property and school taxes.

At the time when the NYPA appropriated the land through eminent domain, 81 parcels of land owned by 51 different individuals were taken throughout the towns of Blenheim and Gilboa. This was not VACANT LAND when it was forcefully purchased from the individuals who owned it to build the NYPA project, and it would not be vacant land today. It is an underhanded and dishonest act by the NYPA to try to present to the public that they plan to do a study to determine the socio-economic impact of the project on the host communities, and then try to predetermine it results by basing it on a comparison that will in no way reflect the actual effect on the community.

I am severely angered and saddened that the NYPA is attempting to shirk their responsibility to their host communities, especially in such an underhanded and deceitful fashion.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Graham

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