RE: ORES (New York State Office of Renewable Energy) DMM  NUMBER: 21-00749

Dear [Mr. Zeldin]/[Ms. Evans-Goldner],

I am writing about Prattsburgh Wind LLC (Terra-Gen) which has received approval to disregard local laws and is being fast tracked without regard to the property rights or the health and safety of local residents. This project will tie up to our antiquated grid, which means that much of the intermittent energy it produces will be lost in transit to New York City. I am asking for your help to assess whether this project is worth the money it will cost the taxpayers.

At this time, the company is starting to build a laydown yard to store equipment, cut down trees, etc. The company has not submitted plans for a structure, nor has it received a building permit and will not be doing any actual work on its wind project, which still has outstanding issues as described below. It is my belief that **they plan to use the laydown yard as proof that they have "shovels in the ground" in order to ensure that they are eligible for federal tax credits** — even if outstanding issues are not finalized to the satisfaction of the agencies involved and the impacted towns.

**For farmers and other residents, the biggest immediate issue may well be the Golden Nematodes**. **As you know, Nematodes are microscopic and very difficult to control. They attack the roots of plants, so the damage they inflict is not immediately obvious and they significantly reduce crop yields.** The laydown yard will be in the town of Cohocton, but the turbines will be scattered throughout five towns, including **the town of Prattsburgh, which is a hot spot for the Golden Nematode.** When Terra-Gen actually begins work on the project, the company will be laying access roads, putting in cement foundations and moving large equipment back and forth, disrupting the fields and spreading the nematodes. To date, they have not presented a plan for cleaning stations required to prevent the spread of infestation.

The wind company has not received signed host agreements or road agreements from all the impacted towns, and the exact locations of proposed turbines is still unknown, so the longitude and latitude of the 650' turbines is also unknown. Only a partial geology study has been completed. **Yet ORES, now under the NYPSC which typically requires a complete geology study, has given approval for the wind project in order to fulfill the state’s ambitious 2030 renewable-energy mandate.**

Additional concerns include:

* There is no detailed decommissioning plan in place. These turbines won't last more than twenty years, probably less. When they are no longer functional, they will be pieces of junk littering the farmland;
* Terra-Gen and ORES have not responded to residents' requests to look at Terra-Gen's plans to put transmission lines through wetlands;
* ORES is allowing Terra-Gen to disregard recommended setbacks, which will put neighboring landowners at risk and will prevent landowners from using their own property.

It is clear that Terra-Gen is not ready to begin real work on a wind facility that, in the end, will not supply sufficient electricity to make it worth the money it will cost the taxpayers. This project needs to be halted until it can be honestly assessed. Please help.