



Tri-State Chamber of Commerce

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RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Tri State Chamber of Commerce, by its Board of Directors, representing two hundred thirty (230) member businesses in this Tri State area, strongly opposes the construction and operation of the New York Regional Interconnect Project (hereafter referred to as "NYRI") for the following reasons contained within this document.

1. We strongly believe the construction of high-power lines in this region will have an adverse economic impact on the Upper Delaware River Valley, the Town of Deerpark and the City of Port Jervis. The construction and operation of the NYRI in the corridor will result in lower property values along the proposed routes, in particular the route following the Upper Delaware River.
2. Tourism is the economic mainstay of the Upper Delaware River Valley's economy and is certain to be damaged by the erection of towers. Further, reduced use of our Scenic Byways would cause irreparable damage to all businesses throughout this corridor.
3. The economic impact on the residents and businesses of the Town of Deerpark who may face the potential loss of their homes and property to the prospect of eminent domain contained within this proposal is unconscionable, particularly in the face of the devastation from the recent flood damage to homes located within the Township.
4. The negative visual impact of power lines along the Delaware River will destroy the scenic beauty of the river now and for generations to come. Congress attempted to protect the scenic beauty of the Upper Delaware River Corridor by enactment of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 (this property was annexed by the Carter administration in 1978). We strongly feel the construction of such a project along the proposed river route constitutes a clear violation of The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
5. Electromagnetic radiation from power lines has been documented to cause adverse health effects in several recent studies related to DC power, including but not limited to, the increase in certain types of cancers, blood disorders and illnesses related to exposure to high voltage power sources.

This Chamber believes that such a project, which clearly impacts on the security of our nation, must disclose all funding sources and active involvement of all individuals in the project. This will assure the people of this nation and the affected region that it does not include interests or involvement of foreign nationals who may negatively affect our national and regional security.

In addition to the above, this Chamber feels that alternate routes to those presented should and must be considered including, but not limited to, existing highway rights of way. Studies must be conducted to determine the impact of the NYRI on health, local economy and the environment before allowing a project of this magnitude to proceed.

As this project is being proposed by a private company who has many of its shareholders and principle offices located in Canada, there are no guarantees that this project will not be sold to another entity or used for other purposes in years to come. A private company has business and fiduciary responsibilities to shareholders, not to the region it is located in.

Please be aware that construction of power lines along the railroad rights of way next to the Delaware River should similarly not be allowed without considerable improvements being made. A large scale project could destabilize the already aged railway bed, jeopardizing public safety in this high-use recreational area.

The Chamber also opposes the construction of new power transmission lines without first exploring the use of alternate solutions to power consumption and alternate local power solutions.

A variety of unanswered questions abound, including alleged tax abatements granted by townships along the proposed routes, so-called private NYRI funding sources, non-disclosure of specific construction plans and techniques, lack of studies and research supporting the need for additional power lines and the lack of attention to potentially serious public safety concerns remain unanswered. This Chamber feels these questions, at a minimum, must be answered fully before this project is granted any consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Linton
Executive Director

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors, Tri State Chamber, P.O. Box 121, Port Jervis, New York 12771 on May 2, 2006

