



Town of Scipio  
3705 State Route 34, PO Box 71  
Scipio Center, NY 13147

5 June 2025

To our neighboring municipalities:

The Town of Scipio Planning Board has run into many frustrations over not being able to enforce our town's zoning codes in relation to the current wind project because of the 94-C process. This process, put into effect by Gov. Hochul, grants favor to renewable energy projects allowing them to override local ordinances. Seeing how this process is already having an ill-effect on our community, we also have grave concerns over home rule being further diminished should the RAPID Act pass. The RAPID Act is proposed legislation that pushes future projects through at a quicker pace, allowing them to skip vital steps that ensure cohesion with town codes and minimal environmental impact. In light of this, the Planning Board unanimously passed a resolution stating our strong opposition to this attempt to supersede local governance.

The RAPID Act and the 94c process steadfastly removes these best practices from our hands and pushes them to the side in favor of industrial renewable energy projects. Our statement of opposition does not put us on one side or the other of these projects. Instead it says, "Please not so fast. We WILL consider these projects as they come to the table. We have good practices in place for reasons that you may not be aware of! You need to trust that we know what we're about and respect the way we are choosing to govern the projects in our municipality."

We encourage you to speak up for your communities in an effort to maintain home rule, and potentially adopt a similar statement of opposition. We also strongly advise your community members, should they be approached to lease their land to renewable energy corporations, to ask many questions of those who have already embarked on these projects--both towns and individuals: there are aspects of these projects that impact communities in ways that are not foreseen at the beginning. We in Scipio are willing to have those frank conversations. Please do not hesitate in reaching out.

Sincerely,

*Melissa D. Alford*

Melissa D. Alford  
Chair  
Scipio Planning Board.