

**Appendix 4-1: Comments by Participating Landowners Posted to NYSPDS’s DMM Asserting Compatibility with Agriculture**

Posted By	Posted Date	Comment	DMM Comment No.
Mirel J Oese-Siegel (Gem Lake Farms LLC)	5/1/2020	<p>I support the solar project set on my farm’s acres. Solar farming saves family farms from disappearing. For nine generations my family has worked endlessly to preserve a culture and tradition in the Gem Lake area of the Finger Lakes, while contributing to the local economy as well as the national and global economies.</p> <p>Solar farming is an innovative solution to preserve family farms, allowing us farmers to diversify in the face of an increasingly unprofitable and volatile agricultural market. The rate at which New York has lost family farms is nearly double that of the national rate, according the last census. Solar farming is the right choice for my family farm.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and time.</p> <p>Respectfully, Mirel Oese-Siegel</p>	20
Alice DiDona	4/21/2020	As a landowner involved in the Trelina Solar Energy Project, I would like to make a few comments, from my husband Frank and myself. Our land has been in the family for	19

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		<p>approximately 150 years. We feel the solar project will help us continue to preserve our land to hand down to our children. We feel we have personal property rights and should be free to enter the land into a new type of farming era, that of solar farming. Given the current global pandemic and uncertainty in the world, solar energy is one way to help land owners and our country be independent for energy. The project will bring in needed jobs and tax revenue. We respect and take into consideration the opinions of our neighbors, but implore them and the whole community to allow NextEra engineers to show the layout and placement of solar panels and landscaping and to give more information when these are available.</p>	
<p>Roberta Oese-Siegel, Gem Lake Farms</p>	<p>1/29/2020</p>	<p>I want to voice my support for the Next Era solar project in Waterloo and on our farm. There are so many reasons why this is the right thing to do - from the standpoints of agriculture, tax revenue, independent and clean energy power, maintaining a several centuries old farm - while doing our part to move Waterloo into the future and more. I invite anyone who would like to discuss the project with the project land owners and friends to contact Next Era to arrange a meeting, or stop by the farm.</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>susanne mcnally</p>	<p>1/27/2020</p>	<p>I am well acquainted with the area of the proposed solar project, and I have a professional interest in local farming, so I</p>	<p>11</p>

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		<p>have followed the pros and cons of this issue closely. After reading carefully all the comments posted here, I wish to add one of my own.</p> <p>With any project such as this, the devil is in the details, and people have raised some good questions which should be addressed. The way the project is actually done matters for the people who live nearby.</p> <p>That said, we should all be able to step back and see how good this project is in every way. Solar energy projects can help farmers survive hard times, hold on to their land and plant again. Solar projects will leave the land in better condition, after a long rest. Solar projects can support the finances of the local town, and not by destroying the environment, as the landfills do. Solar energy is a key part of the global response to climate change. Solar energy projects create green jobs.</p> <p>Questions should be answered. Yes. And all change can be a little uncomfortable. But on balance, this is a very positive project, with many, many valuable benefits to the local community.</p>	
R.L. Oese-Siegel, Gem Lake Farms	1/8/2020	I want to voice my support for the Next Era solar project in Waterloo and on our farm. There are so many reasons why this is the	9

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		right thing to do - from the standpoints of agriculture, tax revenue, independent and clean energy power, maintaining a several centuries old farm - while doing our part to move Waterloo into the future and more. I invite anyone who would like to discuss the project with the project land owners and friends to contact Next Era to arrange a meeting, or stop by the farm.	

[https://www.fltimes.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-development-of-solar-project-good-for-future/article\\_60d65e28-938c-508a-aa65-849a2747df64.html](https://www.fltimes.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-development-of-solar-project-good-for-future/article_60d65e28-938c-508a-aa65-849a2747df64.html)

## LETTER: Development of solar project good for future

Jan 6, 2020

Development of solar project good for future

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of the proposed solar project in Waterloo around the area of Gem Lake. My family's farm, Gem Lake Farms, has signed on to be part of the NextEra solar project.

When it came to be our turn to run our ninth generation farm, we were tasked to make good business decisions to carry it into the future. By entering into a lease agreement with NextEra, I believe we are doing just that.

Solar, for us, is an opportunity to rethink what a 21st century farm can be and to retool for it. However much farmers represent tradition, they have always been innovators. From early on, our family farm embraced technology that revolutionized agriculture.

Underground drainage tiles were invented just up the road from the farm. More than 100 years ago, my grandfather, James Wooden Clise, introduced one of the first threshing machines — an early combine — to the area, threshing for local farms including Rose Hill Mansion.

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Solar energy, an innovation itself, can help protect farm land. It suspends tractor driven soil compaction, it's quiet, there's no run-off or pulsating bright lights. When the solar panels are eventually removed, the land will pretty much be the way it was before panels. The pilings holding the panels in place will be pulled out as neatly as they will be driven in — no cement holding them in place. And there will be no gravel or stone under the panels, just grass. All paneled parcels will be set back 200 feet from the road, 2/3 of a football field, and can still be planted.

The crowning land features of the farm will remain intact — its old woods and hunting grounds, its swamp/wetland, Little Gem, that once produced cranberries, and the old orchard surrounding Gem Lake.

The next generation, our 10th on the farm, is already here. For my grandchildren and their contemporaries, I want a place of tranquility, history, abundant natural resources and an opportunity to grow in ways that effective agricultural science and sound business practices will lead them, as well as a chance to reflect on the bounty the land has provided over the centuries and will continue to provide for generations to come.

R.L. OESE-SIEGEL

Gem Lake Farms

Family Farming Since 1797

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Geneva/Waterloo



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