

Supervisor Romaine Offers Recommendations to PSEG Long Island's Renewables RFP

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Farmingville, NY – Supervisor Ed Romaine has offered his recommendations in response to PSEG Long Island's Request for Information (RFI) for their potential Renewables Request for Proposal (RFP). In a letter to Don Daly, President and Chief Executive Officer of PSEG Long Island, the Supervisor noted that the Town of Brookhaven is one of the largest townships in the state and will likely host some of the largest fueled and renewable electric generation in the region. He also indicated that from the FIT II program to installing energy efficient LED technologies, Brookhaven Town has a very ambitious, achievable plan to reduce the amount of municipal Green House Gas emissions 50% by 2020.

In the letter, the Supervisor commented that the Town has "a vested interest to continue working with PSEG Long Island to help ensure that Long Island has a robust renewable energy portfolio. We are also mindful of the fact that citing these new systems must take into account strategic local planning and land use procedures."

The Supervisor's recommendations for the RFI include:

Residential/Small Business Carve-Out

LIPA, via PSEG Long Island, should continue to offer renewable installation incentives for residential, small businesses and institutions (hospitals and schools). Recent reports have shown there is growing concern among the public that saturation of LIPA substations due to large-scale renewable energy projects may adversely impact smaller-scale residential applications and businesses attempting to install renewable energy technologies on their properties, thus impacting the potential relief on their monthly electric bills.

"We have a vested interest to continue working with PSEG Long Island to help ensure that Long Island has a robust renewable energy portfolio," the Supervisor stated. "We are also mindful of the fact that citing these new systems must take into account strategic local planning and land use procedures."

Municipal Carve-Out

Establish a Megawatt block carve-out for Long Island municipalities that would provide the needed platform to install renewable energy, similar to the Town of Brookhaven's Distributed Renewable Energy Project. This would also allow municipalities to leverage their real estate assets for solar energy installations. Any municipal land lease and/or net metered agreement between a municipality and a renewable energy developer will provide savings/new recurring revenue to municipal budgets and, in turn, relief to our respective taxpayers.

He also noted that this would "mitigate compatible land use challenges being experienced by private sector independent power producers seeking to develop large-scale solar arrays. By working directly and partnering with its constituent municipalities, PSEG Long Island/LIPA and renewable energy developers would simultaneously avoid local land use and zoning conflicts and help to assure local support."

Rooftop/Parking Space Consideration

The Supervisor urged PSEG Long Island to take the solar Urban Infill concept and apply it to Long Island. The concept is a technique that is primarily used in city, not suburban settings. Since there is very little open space and farmland in urban areas, the objective is to utilize existing rooftops and parking areas for solar arrays. Supervisor Romaine commented that it is a "sensible use of resources," and declaring that "as an opponent of the wholesale removal of trees, I have adopted a personal policy of not trading green for green." He encouraged PSEG Long Island to consider solar development on rooftops and parking areas and minimize the use of scenic areas of open space and farmland for solar installations.

Finally, Supervisor Romaine stated that he believes his recommendations will benefit all LIPA residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers and urged his colleagues in the Suffolk County Supervisors Association and the Suffolk County Village Mayors Association to support his concepts.

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