

To: Kevin McLaughlin | Director, Southern Tier Regional Office
President, Empire State New Market Corporation
44 Hawley Street, State Office Bldg., Room 150, Binghamton, NY 13901-4453

From: Carole Satrina Marner, [REDACTED] Franklin, NY 13775
Member: Franklin Local; Delaware Action Group; New York FoodShed.

In a low-energy, climate-warming future, agriculture will be the most important part of our economy - not just in New York State but in the entire United States.

Recently an edition of National Geographic Magazine (April 2010) was devoted to the world wide crisis of diminishing water supply. In a foldout on pages 22 -23 there is a map, *WATER SUPPLY SUSTAINABILITY INDEX* (Att: 1) charting the world's 5 levels of water stress from "least stressed" to "most stressed". In North America, in the "most stressed" category, is a huge bright red swathe that runs from central Mexico up through the middle & west of the US to the Canadian border.

The "least stressed" white areas are in the Northwest, the Deep South, New England and the land right above the Utica & Marcellus Shale, otherwise known as Appalachia. What I understand from this issue of National Geographic is that in the very near future water will undoubtedly be worth a good deal more than gas - an understatement - and those areas that are blessed with more water than they presently need should only be undertaking vital development projects that will protect the use of water for essential needs - such as growing grain - that will probably not be possible in the near future in that fearsomely bright red swathe.

The other pages of interest in the April 2010 National Geographic show charts (pp. 114-115) of the water cost to consumer per 100 gallons based on a usage of roughly 4000 gallons per capita a month. San Diego's cost is among the highest in this country - \$1.65 - since it is piped in from far away, but this does not reflect its true cost which would include all the federal funding such as dams on the Colorado. Worldwide, Copenhagen is the most expensive per consumer - \$3.43 - because it includes all the costs. New York City pays only 80 cents.

Only small husbandry will be able to deal efficiently with the environmental inevitabilities of global warming, and, critically, supply the country with food. Agribusiness practices exacerbate every aspect of the problem with their petroleum dependent methods and products. It is essential that we support family farmers and ranchers now so they are there for us when we will need them desperately. Right now to survive they need a level playing field where the value and quality of their milk and livestock determine price, not the volume.

For this reason a regional policy including New York City is essential if central New York is to become, once again, a successful agricultural region. Here in Delaware County where there is

(over)

still much bitterness about the Watershed, surely a meaningful NY investment in regional sustainable agriculture would convince many Delaware County people to withdraw support of fracking which would disastrously undermine its agricultural potential and future. So far, the NYC Watershed outreach program "Pure Catskills" has supported a boutique approach that has not helped our dairy farmers or meat producers, nor lower income city residents. Farmers markets are wonderful but they will not support an agricultural region.

I do not know as much about the dairy industry situation as I once did. I know that all milk once had to be pasteurized in New York (because of union pressure) which hurt the milk's quality, shelf life, taste and, sadly, its popularity. I do not know if this is still the case. But if so it must change. Pasteurization as well as the production of ancillary milk products should take place where the milk is produced. I think pressure should be put on New York City Watershed not to buy land to prevent development but instead to invest in central NY agriculture and see that its products are able to gain a foothold in the huge NY market. New York City drinks Delaware County water and, if it wants it to last, it should be eating Delaware County butter and meat. Eating habits must change, of course, in the long run if people are to use their food money wisely. But, right now, NY investment can help to make the food we produce here affordable in the city by underwriting and facilitating all of those costs such as transportation and distribution and marketing that handicap small independent food producers. Helping to forge these connections is, for me, what Regional Development means.

The very worst association of regional development would be with the fossil fuel extraction industry. In particular shale gas hydrofracking which has had a catastrophic effect on the health and well being of communities from Wyoming, Colorado, and Texas to Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It is, I believe, the duty of New York State agencies concerned with health and social services (as well as environment and development) to investigate exhaustively all the data concerning this practice and present it to the public. *LOCAL EXPERIENCES RELATED TO THE MARCELLUS SHALE INDUSTRY* (Att. #2) is a report commissioned by the Troy (PA) Community Hospital which describes the multiplicity of negative social consequences and their hidden costs to a community assaulted by the fracking industry.

This assault is exacerbated by the fiction that shale hydrofracking industry will contribute substantial amounts to the coffers of the counties and communities it invades. *REPRESENTATION WITHOUT TAXATION* (Att. #3) is a study prepared by the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, showing that natural gas drillers in Pennsylvania pay very little in state and local taxes, despite industry claims to the contrary.

In August 2011, Professor Susan Christopherson of Cornell's Department of City & Regional Planning, who with Joe Heath, had written a social and environmental impact study (April 15 2011) for Columbia University *GAS AND WATER DON'T MIX* - <http://www.epa.gov/region2/columbia/presentations/heath-hydro.pdf> - published the results of a economic study *COSTS OF THE BOOM-BUST CYCLE IN NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION* (Att: 4). In an interview in the Cornell

Chronicle, she says: ...[during the boom] "you may have a lot of tax money coming in, but you also have to provide additional people with services — public health, public safety, roads, schools — and when the bust comes, you lose that population, but you still may have [to pay for] the infrastructure that you built up," Christopherson says. "Once you extract all the gas from a particular county, it's done; all the drilling rigs leave, and it appears that communities may be worse off than when they started."

A month after Christopherson's report was released the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry issued a report: *PA JOBLESS RATE JUMPS IN AUGUST TO 8.2 PERCENT*. (Att. 5)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *WATER SUPPLY SUSTAINABILITY INDEX*, Environmental News Service August 2, 2010.
2. *LOCAL EXPERIENCES RELATED TO THE MARCELLUS SHALE INDUSTRY*, Troy (PA) Community Hospital, May 2011. 17 pp.
3. *REPRESENTATION WITHOUT TAXATION*, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, April 25, 2011, 7pp.
4. *COSTS OF THE BOOM-BUST CYCLE IN NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION*, Cornell Chronicle, Sept. 1, 2011
5. *PA JOBLESS RATE JUMPS IN AUGUST TO 8.2 PERCENT*, Scranton Times-Union, September 15, 2011. Cornell Chronicle, Sept. 1, 2011