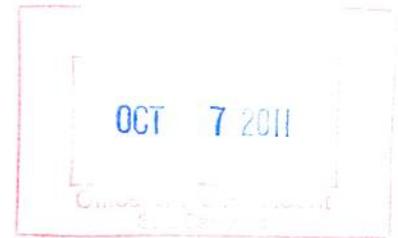


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October 3, 2011

President David J. Skorton  
Day Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14850

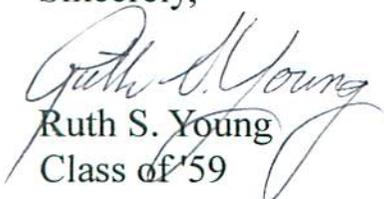
Dear President Skorton:

Enclosed is a letter which I gave to Tom Tranter last month. It includes some concrete suggestions which I would like to have considered in the mix for the STREDC priorities. Many of these suggestions have come from life experiences since before 1980. In the middle 90s, I worked at the Center for the Environment with Ed Cohen-Rosenthal of the ILR School on the "Wind-Hydrogen Project". Some of that work is included in this list of suggestions.

Had they been enacted at an earlier date and taken seriously, we may not be into the challenges we presently are experiencing in terms of a clean environment and a stable economy. However, since we never took the road of green energy, we are having to look at it with 20/20 hindsight. Hopefully this time it will really be considered.

Thank you for your interest, and thank you for your efforts to place the southern tier in the top tier of Economic Development Councils for state consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Ruth S. Young  
Class of '59

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September 5, 2011

G. Thomas Tranter, Jr.  
President, Corning Enterprises, Director, Government Affairs  
Corning, New York 14831

When I came home from that Binghamton meeting, I made a list of some of the priorities I personally think need to be part of our economic development in the Southern Tier. I respectfully submit the following:

- 1) The financial institutions, banks, and insurance companies need to capitalize investments in Green Energy non-carbon infrastructure. I have no idea how to make this happen, but this nation and this state can not revitalize itself without the capital which is presently sitting in the financial institutions unused for our common good. It is needed now for new investment in a mighty leap forward. I am sure that Governor Cuomo, Lt. Gov Duffy, and President Obama could move that train forward if they would work together. Our encouragement is needed and we must work together. Good research is sitting on the shelves without development because of this lack of investment. Without this item in place, there will be no new jobs brought into our region, and stagnation will grow regardless of any creative plans.
- 2) We need "Distributed Power". That means smaller clusters of energy production based on smaller regions. These clusters can be connected with a "smart grid" for larger regions to help when regional disasters occur and help is needed. We need to stop sending electricity over long distances causing resistance loss, inefficiency, and vulnerability to national security issues. As it presently is, one small plane filled with explosives can take out a very large segment of our electrical production crippling large metropolitan areas for long periods of time. The ten year anniversary of 9-11-2001 should have made us figure that out without having to read it in the Elmira Star Gazette ten years later. Part of the distributed power process is the building of solar and wind energy facilities matching what Germany is doing in their sun-deprived country and China is doing more expediently than the United States is presently doing. Once amortized, Wind and Solar produces the DC current to electrolyze water to Hydrogen, the non-fossil fuel of Climate Capitalism. Electrolysis is expensive when not tied to a "free source of energy" because it is intensely endothermic. It decreases in cost with amortization of the sources of the power. No other fuel becomes less expensive with time, since fossil fuels deplete and every new oil and gas well becomes more expensive to drill so more subsidy is begged from the public entity. The climate disruptions already occurring in Texas (drought and fires) and floods and tornadoes throughout the world, triggered by climatic disruptions decrease the positive numbers in our GNP. Not all of our GNP is based on positive forces for good. The more of the GNP we use to rebuild and repair due to destruction, the less is there for building a better quality of life for all people on Planet Earth including our own. War materials are the least positive parts of our GNP and yet they are one of our major exports when we could be exporting green energy and energy efficiency processes.

- 3) The Southern Tier of New York State could become a major site of starting Green Energy Production in our state and our nation. We have Sikorsky-Schweizer which could diversify to fabricate wind turbines instead of laying off 100s of workers when helicopters go out of demand. Iberdrola now owns RP&G and NYSEG. That multinational corporation builds wind turbines all over Europe and is expanding into other continents. The wind turbines could be fabricated here for the whole northeast of the U.S.A. and Canada. Like all major technology, wind turbines must be sited properly so they are not a negative force. Go to the town of Fenner in Madison County to learn about the work of proper siting for quality of life for the people from Supervisor Russell Carey of that township.  
Less transportation of huge parts means more efficiency. NYSEG is no longer in a position to say no to this proposition as they once did since they only produce poles and wires. Konecrane is still located in Montour Falls in what used to be Shepard Niles. Its corporate headquarters is in Finland, but it still does service work for cranes and hoists in our region. That is part of the need for wind turbine manufacturing and its stimulation to renew itself as the Shepard-Niles facility once was would produce healthy manufacturing jobs here in the southern tier.
- 4) Corning Inc and Dresser Rand complete the scene with possible electrolysis and fuel cell fabrication and Hydrogen gas compression, storage, and transportation. There are at least 20 professors in the Chemistry Department at Cornell University who have the research done on fuel cell design and increased efficiency. Contact Francis J. Di Salvo and Hector D. Abruna for directions on that. The commercial development of what their research has already achieved needs collaboration. There is a shovel ready "business park" which has been sitting idle for several years on route 414 in Dix next to the railroad track and just down the route 16 hill to the racetrack. The racetrack is an excellent facility for testing fuel cell cars. The Huey farm across the road from the track is a wind farm site waiting to be built, and the buildings on the business park can be built with LEED platinum process for maximum efficiency by Welliver-McGuire to bring together this Wind/Solar/Hydrogen consortium.
- 5) The materials and structures to upgrade residences and business buildings need to be built in the southern tier. Energy efficient windows, doors, and insulation materials are all desperately needed and can be manufactured and used in homes and businesses throughout the region. Energy audits and increasing energy efficiency throughout this region will decrease significantly the use of fossil fuels, the production of greenhouse gases and other forms of noxious air pollutants that make people sick. This kind of work requires very little in the way of technical education and can be taught through BOCES and CCC and on the job training through machine shops.
- 6) The community college can teach courses in the "green collar jobs" rather than fossil fuel drilling. Because Chemung County has a heavy preponderance of prison populations, we have a challenging load of "very expensive citizens" who have been left behind in the welfare system, in prison, or out of prison without jobs. Many of them are quite educatable and would stop being expensive drags on the economy if they were trained and had jobs with energy auditing, and energy reducing projects within the community.  
(See: Majoracartergroup.com (T: 718n 874 7313) 901 Hunts Point Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Bronx, N.Y. 10474) If they can do this in the South Bronx, we can do it here. By the time the curriculum for N-G production is developed at CCC, the N-G will be depleted leaving us with wasted land, poisoned aquifers, empty hotels, and destroyed infrastructure. We best look beyond this short-sighted fix.

- 7) Broad-band development throughout our region is needed for all our people. The rural areas have been left behind in this technology for decades.
- 8) Stimulation of Bio-methane production through anaerobic fermentation of sewage, animal waste, and landfills. The sludge from this process can be solar dried and used as soil conditioner as long as it is not contaminated with industrial chemicals. Our machine shops can grow prosperous producing the infrastructure for methane production and our animal farms will be energy producers.
- 9) The sewage treatment plant in Watkins Glen, that has decreased beauty and lakeside development from happening on Seneca Lake, needs to be removed from its lakefront location. A new process of water treatment designed and built by John Todd of the University of Vermont needs to be installed on the south side of the marsh in Montour Falls. John Todd has already been consulted on this process. He is the "Water Doctor" who has worked at cleaning sewage filled canals in China, and has cleaned up CAFO messes throughout the Chesapeake Bay area. He would be delighted to design and build this facility to prevent further disaster of a major lake rather than cleaning up disasters that have already happened. He has been here and seen this area several years ago. Dennis Fagan, Schuyler County Legislative Chair is well aware of this potential and has in the past encouraged its happening. Todd's systems of water cleansing are not just water treatment systems, they are tourist attractions. Confer with Omega Conference Center in Reinbeck, N.Y. that has one of his systems in action serving their conference center. It has attracted thousands of tourists.
- 10) Stimulation of Eco-tourism in the Finger Lakes area which is one of the major "fly-ways" for migratory birds. People with binoculars go all over the world to observe birds and they have "disposable income". Best they dispose of it here if they know about this region and are welcomed here. It ties in well with the Ornithology Lab at Cornell University also. Most of these amateur ornithologists drink good wine, love quality food, and would visit Corning Museum of Glass if they were here. I never see this region advertized in "Audubon Magazine" as a spring and fall destination of choice for following the birds. This is a low-cost but significant stimulant to our economy.

Bibliography supporting many of these ideas:

- 1) **L. Hunter Lovins & Boyd Cohen** "Climate Capitalism" Hill & Wang, division of Farrar, Straus & Giroux of 18 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, N.Y. 10011 2011
- 2) **Lester R. Brown** "World on the Edge, How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse" Earth Policy Institute, W.W.Norton & Co. Inc. 500 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, N.Y., N.Y. 10110 2011
- 3) **William Ashworth** "The Economy of Nature, Rethinking the Connections Between Ecology & Economics" Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston, New York 1995
- 4) **Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins** "Natural Capitalism, Creating the Next Industrial Revolution" Little, Brown, & Co. New York, Boston, London 1999
- 5) **Bill McKibben** "Deep Economy, The Wealth of Communities & the Durable Future" A Holt Paperback 2007
- 6) **James Hansen** "Storms of My Grandchildren, The Truth about the coming climate catastrophe & our last chance to save humanity" Bloomsbury, USA New York 2009
- 7) **Van Jones** "The Green Collar Economy, How One Solutions Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems" HarperCollins 2008
- 8) Done in memory of **Ed Cohen-Rosenthal**, a brilliant young man who passed away all too soon. "Work & Environment Initiative" of the Center for the Environment and the ILR School at Cornell University. His legacy lives on.