

**RESOLUTION NO. \_28\_ - 2025**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO VETO S.8012/A.8332 RELATING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF  
SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS**

Introduced by Jeffrey Hoch – Supervisor – Town of Watson

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 8012 (Harckham)/Assembly Bill 8332 (Lasher) would amend the Real Property Tax Law to modify the method for assessing solar and wind energy systems by requiring the use of a discounted cash flow approach; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation further requires host community benefit payments to be included as expenses, stipulates that federal tax credits be deemed intangible assets and not included in revenue streams, and imposes a standardized formula for determining the assessed value of solar and wind projects; and

**WHEREAS**, this methodology would result in a significant reduction in the assessed value of large-scale solar and wind installations, thereby diminishing the tax revenue that can be collected by counties and local municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, solar and wind energy systems often encompass thousands of acres of land, which means municipalities lose a significant portion of tax revenue due to these projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the last formula adopted by the State for assessing solar and wind energy systems only taxed the systems at a quarter of their worth, which shifts the fiscal burden to residents and small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, corporations are benefiting at a cost to taxpayers in New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative effect of this policy would be to erode the long-term fiscal stability of local governments and unfairly prioritize corporate tax relief over equitable taxation and funding for local services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

**Section 1.** The Town of Watson Town Board strongly urges Governor Kathy Hochul to veto S.8012/A.8332 in order to preserve the ability of local governments to generate fair and adequate tax revenues from commercial energy developments, based upon an assessed valuation methodology of large-scale solar and wind installations that is fair and equitable, without shifting the burden of these large-scale commercial projects to residents and small businesses.

**Section 2.** The Town of Watson Town Board urges the local municipalities to voice their opposition to this unfair legislation.

**Section 3.** The Town Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, Senator Mark Walczyk, the New York State Association of Towns, and any others the Board deems appropriate.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Town Board Members Voted as such:**

Jeffrey Hoch – Aye      Vicki Roy – Aye      Steve Stogsdill – Aye      Shawn Freeman – Aye      Jeff Lyng - Aye  
Ayes – 5    Nays – 0

**DULY ADOPTED by the TOWN BOARD of the TOWN OF WATSON** at its regular meeting held on July 9, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present.

*Michelle Ward*

Town Clerk

July 9, 2025