

To the Town of Farmington Planning Board, Zoning Board and Town Board Officials:

Please consider the following two articles in your decision-making process re: Large-Scale Industrial/Commercial Solar Power Plant application on Yellow Mills and Fox Road.

1. Cuomo’s Depopulation War on Upstate NY by Bob Lonsberry
2. Virginia’s “Green New Deal” exposes what Democrats really care about-and it’s not the environment by Lauren DeBellis Appell.

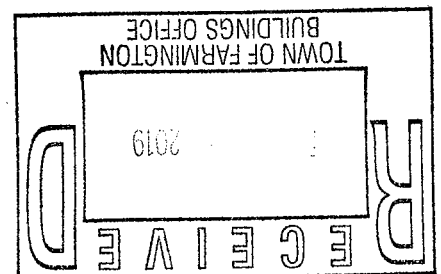
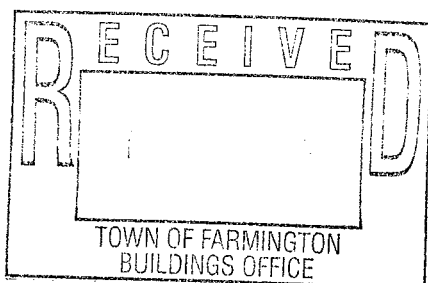
As a group of concerned citizens opposing the Large-Scale Industrial/Commercial Solar Power Plant application on Yellow Mills and Fox Road, we understand the challenge in developing a land use plan for the Town of Farmington. As landowners we are not opposed to sustainable energy development in Industrial/commercial zones or small scale personal solar throughout the town. However, we urge the Board to assure that every opportunity is given to addressing this important issue, and that all resources at your disposal be studied thoroughly to develop a comprehensive approach to this issue.

Thank You

Your Neighbors;

Jim Foley, Ann Foley, Jim Falanga, Nancy Falanga, Al Baxter, Jennifer Baxter, Jim Redmond, Lisa Reed,

Caroline Heberle, Linda Heberle, Edith Chapman, Eric Chapman, Gordon Wilson, Stacy Vandenburg, Arnold Vandenburg, Jim Dennie, Dan Geer, Matt Barnes, Terry Biek, Marilyn Fair, Jon Fair, Tammy Johnson, Ed Johnson, Linda Zurich, Jim Zurich, Petrina Case, Paul Case



# LONSBERRY: Cuomo's Depopulation War On Upstate NY

Since the start of the decade, a million people have moved out of New York.

For Andrew Cuomo, that's not a problem, that's a victory.

It has solidified his party's hold on power, and it has reshaped the state and its culture in a fashion more congenial to his interests and agenda.

The subject comes up because of new Census Bureau numbers which show, yet again, that more people decide to move out of New York than any other state in the nation.

Those move outs are so numerous that they outstrip population growth and leave the state with fewer total people.

From the summer of 2017 to the summer of 2018, New York had a net loss in population of more than 48,000. Illinois, another Democrat state, was the second-most abandoned state, with 45,000 net reduction in population. Of the seven other states which had a net loss of population – all but one of them Democrat states – the total number of people moving out of them all combined was just under 34,000.

That means that, if you set aside Illinois, New York lost more residents than all the other losing states combined. If you don't set aside Illinois, more than 40 percent of all the net population loss in America took place in New York.

Under Andrew Cuomo.

And that's a win for him.

Because almost all of New York's net population loss took place upstate, where values and party enrollment are in conflict with the governor and his progressive agenda.

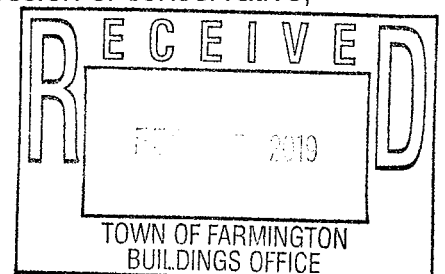
Forty-two of New York's 50 upstate counties have had a net loss of population in the last year. All of them were counties that voted against Andrew Cuomo in the recent gubernatorial election.

And those upstate counties have been losing population, prosperity and pull for years on end.

Even in the years when birthrate and high immigration rates put New York as a net-positive state, most upstate counties were net loss. In recent years, that loss has grown to such an extent that it out tallies the growth from birth and immigration.

There is a decade-long depopulation of upstate New York underway, and it is hard to conclude that that is anything other than a policy objective of Andrew Cuomo. In this dramatically bifurcated state, Cuomo's efforts to make New York – in his words – “the progressive capital of the nation” require a weakening and suppression of conservative, rural and Republican upstate.

So he declared war.



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He allowed the state's suffocating taxes, regulations and land-control rules to work like a spreading cancer against the financial interests of rural upstate counties. He harassed upstate culture with measures like Common Core and the Safe Act, and delayed and ultimately destroyed the potential for prosperity offered by fracking.

Further, his upstate economic-development measures have been gambling, which flopped; yogurt, which flopped and has put the state's dairy industry in critical condition; and microbreweries, which are subsidized and about to be marginalized by legalized marijuana.

His help has invariably hurt.

And that's not an accident.

That's a plan. That's a war.

Andrew Cuomo is and has been at war with that part of New York which disagrees with him and didn't politically support either him or his father.

It's a personal grudge for him that pays off for his party. As the Democrats celebrate their now-complete control on all parts of New York government, they should realize that they owe that to the fact that the overwhelming majority of the million New Yorkers who fled were Republicans. The growth of Democrat power in formerly conservative areas is significantly a factor of Republicans – or their children – moving away.

The depopulation of upstate solidifies Democrat control of New York and its seats in the federal Congress. It also advances the disdain urban progressives feel for the rural culture and people who predominate over the vast geographic stretches of upstate.

New York Democrats have shown for decades their attitude toward the interests and governance of their upstate neighbors by the oppressive policies imposed on the Adirondacks. The Andrew Cuomo era is merely a step in the process of putting all of upstate in that same colonial basket.

The intolerance of this governor for people who are different from him has hardened into policy. When he said "there is no room in this state" for people he called "extreme conservatives" – people who differed with him on abortion and gun control – he wasn't using a figure of speech. He was expressing a policy priority of his administration.

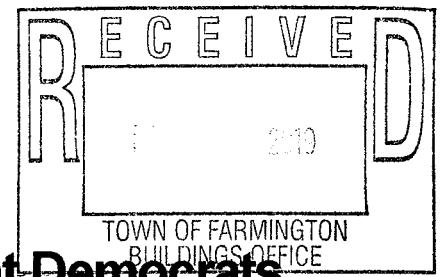
And these Census Bureau numbers prove it.

In the governor's mansion, news that New York has shrunk yet again is neither a surprise nor a disappointment.

It is a success.

The proof of a plan coming together.

What upstaters have to decide is are they going to continue to let themselves be chased away, or are they going to stand and fight.



## Virginia's 'Green New Deal' exposes what Democrats

### really care about – and it's not the environment

By [Lauren DeBellis Appell | Fox News](#) The state of Virginia is pushing to enact its own Green New Deal which, if it goes forward, would not only be the largest solar energy project on the east coast, but one of the largest in the world. If the energy company sPower has its way it will take over 6,350 acres in Spotsylvania County for a massive 500-Megawatt solar project which will use 1.8 million solar panels on 3,500 of the acres.

What makes this solar project stand out from its large rivals west of the Rocky Mountains – and has opponents in the Virginia town of Spotsylvania seeing red instead of green – is its location.

#### DAVID WEBB: THE GREEN NEW DEAL IS NO JOKE - REPUBLICANS MUST PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE LEFTISTS HAVE A GOAL

While these large solar energy projects on the west coast are in sparsely inhabited remote locations, the site for this project disturbs well-populated Spotsylvania County, which is steeped in American history dating back to the Civil War and is the home to several historic battle sites.

Now the state of Virginia wants it to be home to a solar project almost half the size of Manhattan. Imagine a solar plant half the size of an area that houses 1.6 million people, dumped in the middle of a rural Virginia town. It's not easy being green, I suppose.

Opponents of the project have a litany of concerns, among them how it threatens to overtake and overwhelm their community. Unlike similar projects

west of the Rockies, Spotsylvania is not a remote location in the middle of many square miles of empty desert.

It's not an exaggeration to say this solar project is virtually in residents' backyards with reports that it could be as close as 50 feet away from their homes. To give you some perspective, 50 feet is just under the size of a bowling lane.

Imagine opening your door and rolling a bowling ball and hitting a solar plant. Welcome to cosmic bowling in the era of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's, D—N.Y. fictitious green America.

There are plenty of remote locations on the east coast for a facility such as this if they bother to look. There's absolutely no need for the strong arm of government to impose this on people who have no interest in having a solar plant half the size of Manhattan dropped in their backyard. A group of Spotsylvania residents have united and formed the group "Concerned Citizens of Spotsylvania." Among their concerns is the potential for the rising cost of electricity, as well as environmental issues including toxic materials, water usage, erosion, increased likelihood of fires, not to mention all the trees that have already been removed to prepare for the project that has yet to get the final green light from the county's Board of Supervisors.

According to residents who oppose the plan, sPower has been unmoved by environmental concerns in its insistence to use this site for its solar power plant.

Residents point out that in the county's Comprehensive Plan land use map the site comprises roughly 25 percent of its forestal land. Close to 2,000 acres

of land out of the 6,350 can't be covered with solar panels due to the presence of streams and wetlands.

Also residents note that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has designated streams that flow through the site as “environmentally significant,” and “threatened and endangered species waters.” Additionally they point out the site is a significant part of what makes up the endangered Po River.

Unfortunately, facts are often of little consequence. As is the case with the plowing ahead — literally — on 6,350 acres with a Virginia-sized Green New Deal.

So it's official: Big Government liberals have made “green” into a one-word oxymoron. Any claim by these green dealers feigning concern about the environment is bogus. Their bluff has been called.

This is the Democrats' new favorite fairytale, the Green New Deal which should be re-titled “Government Need for Domination.” Possibly never before have we seen Democrats be so shockingly forthcoming about their insatiable and disturbing need for control.

While Ocasio-Cortez and her counterparts are pushing the Green New Deal and their fairytale of rainbows and unicorns, Spotsylvania is Exhibit-A for how the impact of forcing this on communities is real.

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Whether it's Washington or Richmond dictating and overreaching with the supersized hand of Uncle Sam, the results are the same. The consequences on communities are critical, they result in hardship and adversity.

The future of this solar project hangs in limbo. Spotsylvania County's Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to move forward with it at the end of the month. The Board needs to send a message to both Richmond and Washington — No deal! Rural America isn't going to be the guinea pig for this vision of a Green New Deal the Democrats have dancing in their heads.