

Resolution to Join the Consortium in Opposition to the Fortis-Central Hudson Merger

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted this resolution setting forth the many specific reasons it opposed the acquisition of Central Hudson by Fortis, Inc., including, but not limited to, the one-time, insufficient public benefits, the lack of investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy, the continued and increased reliance on natural gas, the failure to commit to investing in distributed generation, the loss of local control necessary for a sustainable energy infrastructure, the potential loss of both union and non-union jobs, etc.; and

WHEREAS, a Consortium of municipalities and other non-government entities, labor unions, businesses and individuals is being formed to mount a legal challenge to urge the Public Service Commission to deny the merger; and

WHEREAS, The legal opposition will consist of, but not be limited to, filing a motion requesting that the PSC hold evidentiary hearings to receive testimony and evidence on this important issue that will adversely effect New Paltz and the entire service territory of Central Hudson, and that the Administrative Law Judges presiding over Case 12-M-0192, in the interest of transparency, issue a Recommended Decision explicating in specific detail why the merger should be approved or disapproved; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes that municipalities should provide leadership in the effort to stop the merger, and

WHEREAS, the Town has decided to join that Consortium; and

WHEREAS, the Town shall contribute up to \$1500 toward the cost of the legal opposition on the condition that the Town shall be entitled to a refund of any unexpended legal funds in proportion to its' contribution over all contributions made by all parties. The Town's contribution is further contingent on the legal team advancing the specific interests of the Town to build a solar array project without the necessity of paying exorbitant connection fees and the interest of the Town in obtaining the financial sponsoring to remedy the flooding issues caused by the Dashville Dam.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz has decided to joint the Consortium in Opposition to the Fortis-Central Hudson Merger under the terms set forth above.