

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-03

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GREIGOPPOSING NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL S5506 RELATING TO THE SITING OF QUALIFIED ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, New York State Senate Bill S5506, sponsored by Senator Kavanagh, and Assembly Bill A8378, proposes to amend the Public Service Law and the Labor Law to expand the authority of the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) to site and permit Qualified Energy Storage Systems across New York State; and

WHEREAS, while the stated intent of Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, is to advance the State's renewable energy goals and reduce emissions, the bill would significantly limit local municipal control over land use, zoning, and public safety decisions by transferring permitting authority from local governments to a centralized state agency; and

WHEREAS, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) have been shown to pose serious risks to public health, safety, and welfare, including but not limited to fires, explosions, toxic smoke, thermal runaway events, and the release of hazardous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the dangers of such systems are not theoretical, as demonstrated by three separate battery storage fires in Warwick, New York, which resulted in documented health hazards to nearby residents, emergency response challenges, and ultimately led the local municipal government to condemn the site for safety reasons; and

WHEREAS, these incidents underscore the reality that battery storage facilities can overwhelm local emergency services, expose first respondents and residents to toxic conditions, and render surrounding areas unsafe for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, would enable the siting of large-scale energy storage facilities through ORES in a manner that may override local zoning laws, emergency preparedness standards, and community-specific safety concerns, despite the fact that local governments are most familiar with their infrastructure, population density, environmental conditions, and emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the bill acknowledges that many local jurisdictions have enacted moratorium on battery storage systems due to safety, staffing, and expertise limitations, yet instead of addressing these legitimate concerns, Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, seeks to circumvent local authority rather than strengthen local oversight and protections; and

WHEREAS, protecting residents from known and demonstrated hazards must remain a priority over expedited development timelines or statewide permitting uniformity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Greig Town Board formally opposes New York State Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this governing body affirms that local municipalities must retain full authority over the siting, permitting, and regulation of Battery Energy Storage Systems to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of their residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Senate, the New York State Assembly, Senators Kavanaugh and Walczyk, Representative Blankenbush and all relevant state and regional representatives, urging them to reject or substantially amend Senate Bill S5506, and Assembly Bill A8378, to preserve local control and prioritize public safety.

Move by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, seconded by Councilman Mallette

Vote:

Councilman Mallette	Aye	Councilman Olmstead	Absent
Councilman Bailey-Swisher	Aye	Councilman Mayhew	Absent
Supervisor Johnson	Aye		

Adopted and Certified on the 11st day of May 2026



Thomas Gunn, Greig Town Clerk