ORIGINAL

TOWN OF SAUGERTIES
4 High Street
Saugerties, New York 12477
TEL: (845) 246-2800 FAX: (845) 247-0355

Fred Costello Jr.
Supervisor
Leeanne Thornton
Deputy Supervisor

Members of Town Board
Michael Ivino
Mary M. (Peg) Nau
John Schoonmaker IV

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE
Washington DC 20426

RE: MOTION TO INTERVENE Docket # P-15056 – Ashokan Pumped Storage Project

Dear Secretary Bose:

This is in response to the Preliminary Permit application submitted to the Commission by Premium Energy Holdings for the Ashokan Pumped Storage Project (P-15056) which FERC may be considering. The Town of Saugerties wishes to on record as opposing the proposed Project as it has been put forth to date.

This proposal would have far-reaching geographic impacts that can extend to Hudson River communities like Saugerties, which is located in the northeastern corner of Ulster County, New York. Although we are not within the Ashokan Reservoir watershed—a key contributor to the drinking water of more than 9 million New Yorkers—we are a community through which Esopus Creek spills and which is currently used as a waste channel for New York City Department of Environmental Protection in managing its Ashokan asset. While Saugerties is essentially harmed by such a use, we do not wish to see it compounded by new reservoir-related infrastructure that may contribute collateral impacts that may further impair the Ashokan Reservoir's ability to deliver clean water to its consumers.

The potential impacts of such a large project as Premium Energy's on our area are also in contravention to the heritage-related nature of our town and our region. We do not need another major reservoir for Ulster County, and our region's history in turning back Consolidated Edison's proposed pump storage facility at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River has tained consideration of any such large-scale energy projects in a region of national significance. The territory in question is part of the Maurice D. Hinchey National Heritage Area, which was the first such heritage area in the United States and the model upon which all others were developed.

The opinion expressed in this letter was deliberated upon and shared by the members of the Saugerties Town Board.

Very sincerely yours,

Fred Costello Jr., Supervisor