To: Kimberly D. Bose

March 24, 2021

Federal Energy Regulator Commission

888 First St. NE Room 1A

Washington, DC 20426

ORIGINAL

FILED
SECRETARY OF THE
COMMISSION

2021 APR -6 P 2:35

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Re: Ashokan pumped storage project docket #P - 15056

I object to the project proposal by Premium Energy Holdings to construct the Ashokan pumped storage facility in Ulster County, New York. This proposal is destructive of the local environment, specifically upland and riparian habitat that sustains a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Additionally, it is unlawful as creation of any of the proposed upper reservoirs would constitute a taking of New York State Forest Preserve lands, owned by the people of the State of New York, and protected as Forever Wild under the State Constitution.

There would likely be increased turbidity introduced into the Ashokan Reservoir by water intake/discharge by the generating plant. Both aquatic organisms in the reservoir and water quality of this public water supply for 9 million New Yorkers are likely to be negatively impacted by this increased turbidity.

The application contains vague and incomplete information as follows: maps showing proposed upper reservoir locations are vague and do not clearly show reservoir locations, affected roads, habitations, state land boundaries, and amount of land acreage to be taken both public and private. Information on timing and volume of water discharge over upper reservoir spillways into the dammed protected streams is lacking. Therefore, habitat destruction and flooding damage to downstream communities cannot be estimated ahead of preliminary project approval. Due to the lack of this important information, the total environmental and socio -economic impact, both long and short term, is not known, and should be cause to not allow this project to proceed.

. For the above reasons I call on FERC to deny the application for a preliminary permit for this ill-conceived project.

Sincerely,

Thomas V. Raffaldi

1235 State Route 28A

West Hurley, NY 12491