

Letter to the Editor,

We have owned my home on Burnet Road for 31 years. We chose to live in a quiet rural setting to raise our four children and enjoy the quiet life. We have enjoyed our dead end road and have developed many close friendships over the years and could not imagine living anywhere else, until now. This past year we were approached by the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency about their interest in purchasing our home and land. At first, we were hesitant as the thought of moving had never crossed our minds. However, after many tearful conversations and learning the reason why they were interested in purchasing our property, we understood their motive. Their intent is to use that land for a project that will be one of the largest CNY has ever seen, aside from the Amazon facility. This is when we knew living on our quiet country road was coming to an end. After listening to their vision for the area and the overabundance of jobs it would create, as well as all the different industries that would benefit, we decided to give them the opportunity to make an offer on our property. With help from counsel the offer was fair, they were empathetic to the disruption a move would cause in our lives and offered to help in any way they could. They were kind and understanding and took the time to answer any questions we had. We have appreciated their honesty and transparency.

After considering all the different aspects involved in this decision, we decided to accept their offer and begin a new chapter. CNY is such a beautiful and desirable area to live in. We know that a project such as White Pine Commerce Park would attract more people to relocate to the area, not only for the plentiful options as far as jobs generated, but also because of the quality of life residents of CNY enjoy. OCIDA believes this project will attract several new businesses to the area as well as more entertainment options. And we believe they are right. The more we have to offer, the more desirable the area (maybe our children will move back home!) This was the final reason we have decided to start over elsewhere, we still want a rural setting that Burnet Rd. will eventually not offer.

We're aware that some of our neighbors are nervous about the potential project and how their lives might be affected, but we hope they reconsider. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to sell their homes at a much better price than they would otherwise. It's been a process that's been very difficult at times but we know for us we have made the right decision. The OCIDA representatives we have dealt with are courteous, fair and understanding of all the different elements involved with this decision. We urge our neighbors to hear them out. This is an opportunity to create a positive change in our area and stimulate our economy, which is needed after the damage the pandemic has cause to so many communities. As for the residents of Clay, there will be many opportunities for you to address your concerns via town meetings and public meetings, we urge you all to educate yourselves on this project.

Thank you for your time,

Barbara Soule