



Elisabeth Haub School of Law
78 North Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603

May 17, 2021

Chairman Michel McLaughlin
Planning Board
Town of Mount Pleasant, New York

VIA EMAIL C/O Carolyn Saracino at csaracino@mtpleasantny.com

Re: Gates of Heaven 5 MW Solar Project

Dear Chairman McLaughlin:

Pace Energy & Climate Center writes to urge the Mount Pleasant Planning Board to support the development of solar in your community by supporting the Gates of Heaven 5 MW Solar Project.

The Gates of Heaven project will provide approximately 200 local households with renewable energy, at costs lower than utility-supplied electricity. We commend the Archdiocese of New York for supporting renewable energy by proposing this project.

The Gates of Heaven project is an incremental but important step towards meeting New York State's clean energy goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates ambitious state-wide greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030, and 85 percent reductions by 2050. The CLCPA further requires that 70 percent of electricity generation must be derived from renewable energy by 2030, and 100 percent of the state's electricity must be emission free by 2040.

In order to ensure a sustainable future, municipal governments and planning boards throughout the country must expand the adoption of solar energy within their communities. For New York in particular, Mount Pleasant, Westchester County and communities throughout New York State must responsibly and rapidly embrace solar energy arrays in their communities to achieve CLCPA mandates.

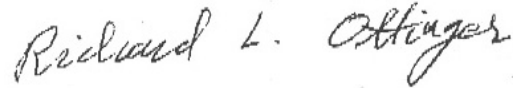
In carrying out your responsibilities as a planning board, we recognize that you must consider various issues, including aesthetics. We understand that that the Archdiocese of New York is working cooperatively with Mount Pleasant to ensure that the project meets your municipality's requirements and is appropriate to the proposed location.

We urge the Mount Pleasant Planning Board to recognize its role in transitioning Mount Pleasant towards sustainability, and to carry out its responsibilities in the Gates of Heaven project in a manner that enables our common sustainable future.

Sincerely yours,



Craig Hart
Executive Director
Pace Energy and Climate Center



Richard Ottinger
Founder
Pace Energy and Climate Center

Cc: John Cahill, Archdiocese of New York
Peter Smith, Pataki-Cahill Group
Martin Susz, Archdiocese of New York