October 30, 2014

Hon. Ralph V. Suozzi, Chairman
Long Island Power Authority
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, NY 11553

Dear Chairman Suozzi,

On behalf of the Town of East Hampton, we request that the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) give serious consideration to our Town goals and efforts to encourage the demonstration and utilization of renewable energy.

The Town of East Hampton is committed to becoming a leader in sustainable energy policies and practices by substantially reducing energy consumption through conservation and energy efficiency, while significantly increasing the use of renewable energy technologies. Our community aggressively embraced LIPA during your notification for the Feed-in-Tariff and other renewable Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

In May of this year, the East Hampton Town Board voted unanimously to become the first municipality in New York State to adopt two transformative goals for the community: to meet 100% of community-wide electricity consumption with renewable energy sources by 2020, and to meet the equivalent of 100% of economy-wide energy consumption including electricity, heating and transportation with renewable energy sources by 2030.

Since May, the Town has undertaken additional initiatives to transform our community. We submitted a funding request to New York State to create a Decentralized Resilient Energy Assessment and Management (DREAM) Addendum to our Comprehensive Management Plan. We intend to develop a plan that will help implement our vision and goals. The Town also submitted a funding request to the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute to conduct education and outreach in reducing phantom load in a creative Unplug East Hampton campaign that will utilize social media, social media marketing and other innovative methods to reach our residents and visitors. We have taken it upon ourselves to inform our community of PSEG Long Island and NYSERDA’s home energy audit programs. We have also installed an electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall.
The Town of East Hampton is being recognized worldwide for our efforts. Our community is being showcased at the 100% Renewable Energy Sources conference, a global congress that occurs annually in Germany. The Federal Republic of Germany Foreign Service Office has selected the Town of East Hampton to be among their delegation of Americans who will build a network of information exchange between New York, Washington D.C., and Germany.

Due to the soon-to-be-published PSEG Long Island Utility 2.0 long range capital plan, our community is very concerned that the LIPA Board of Trustees will defer or cancel any decisions on the recently issued renewable RFPs. All our efforts, including those of other municipalities and private entities that participated in the process should not be delayed or wasted.

Specifically, our community is embracing solar PV, advanced battery storage systems and on- and offshore wind energy to fulfill our renewable energy goals. We respectfully request the LIPA Board fully honor and commit to the RFPs and what our community is embracing and encouraging. We ask that LIPA board decisions not hinder our community goals. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact John Botos in our Natural Resources Department (jbotos@ehamptonny.gov or 631-324-0496).

Sincerely,

Larry Cantwell  
Supervisor, Town of East Hampton

Peter Van Scoyoc  
Deputy Supervisor, Town of East Hampton

Sylvia Overby  
Councilwoman, Town of East Hampton

Kathee Burke-Gonzalez  
Councilwoman, Town of East Hampton