

Assemblyman Paul D. Tonko
Guy Park Manor
366 West Main St.
Amsterdam, NY 12010
Fax (518) 843-0049

08/22/2006

Dear Assemblyman Tonko:

I am deeply concerned about the harm that the proposed NYRI power line project will do to my community. I am looking to you, as New York State Assembly Energy Committee Chairman, and as one of our elected representatives, to protect us from this terrible threat.

However, over the past few months, I have grown increasingly disappointed with the so-called "public hearings" that various members of the New York State Legislature have been holding in communities in the path of the NYRI project. During these hearings, elected officials talk tough about opposing NYRI, but, in fact, the hearings appear to be little more than photo opportunities because the witnesses are not required to testify under oath.

If these hearings are intended as a serious exercise of legislative authority to benefit the public, why aren't NYRI officials required to testify under oath, as is common in most governmental public hearings? The deference of our elected officials to NYRI, a privately held company that has refused to answer your questions directly, outright lied to you and to the public and shown nothing but contempt for both of us, is deeply troubling to me.

When the issue of sworn testimony was raised at a hearing in Ferndale on Thursday, August 17, you assured everyone in attendance that arranging hearings at which NYRI representatives are required to answer questions under penalty of perjury would be "easily accomplished." Therefore, on behalf of myself and my neighbors, I call on you to arrange for a series of real legislative hearings to be held no later than September, in which witnesses are sworn to tell the truth and are subpoenaed if necessary to compel their testimony.

Sincerely,

John Doe
1 Main Street
Anytown, NY 121212