I am a member of New Paltz GreenWorks.

New Paltz Green Works is a joint Village and Town commission charged with reducing our community's carbon footprint.

The resolution creating our global warming task force states, (these are snippets) "the Village of New Paltz, having recognized both the severity of this crisis and our obligation to do what is in our power to avert it"… "by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:"… "Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements; Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances; Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system…"

The DEIS states on page 3-225, "During the past ten years, the issue of making sure that development projects are planned, designed and constructed using environmentally sound principles, techniques and products has become very popular. Along with this increase in interest has been a surge in the number of organizations, companies and manufacturers marketing their services and products as "green"; however, there is currently no agreed upon standard for what constitutes best practices or how "green" a product should be." The DEIS then goes on to say how "green" costs 30% more and a balance needs to be struck when making decisions. There is no data to support the 30% estimate and there is no talk of short term cost versus long term savings.

Yes, green is "popular" but it does not end there. There are agreed upon standards. Buildings can be LEED certified. Appliances and equipment can be Energy Star certified. On my further inspection of the DEIS, most specifically sections 3.10 – Sustainable Development Techniques, 5.0 – Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources, and 7.0 – Effects on the Use of and the Conservation of Energy Resources (which I ask you please to read and dissect), I find no clear commitments similar to the commitments made by the village of New Paltz. While there are references to LEED studies, there is no strong wording about only constructing LEED certified buildings, or to only using Energy Star rated equipment and appliances.

With that in mind and because of the many other negative environmental impacts this development brings with it, New Paltz GreenWorks cannot support the Crossroads Development Project.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. The town is our backyard. This project can only severely increase our community's carbon footprint. Please consider taking a strong stand against Crossroads.

kt Tobin Flusser