

Re: Support for the Town of Lansing's Proposed Local Law No. 7

Dear Lansing Town Board,

On behalf of Community Science Institute (CSI), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Town of Lansing's proposed moratorium on large-scale development ([Local Law No. 7](#)).

As a community-based organization that has partnered with hundreds of volunteers and stakeholders across Central New York since 2000, CSI commends the Town for taking a proactive, science-informed approach to community planning and watershed protection. The proposed moratorium represents a responsible and measured approach — one that allows the Town to thoughtfully review and update its zoning regulations to align with the goals set forth in its Comprehensive Plan, including the protection of natural resources and water quality.

The Cayuga Lake watershed is a complex and interconnected system that supports drinking water supplies, agriculture, recreation, and tourism for thousands of residents. Decisions about future land use and development within this watershed have far-reaching implications for water quality, stormwater management, and community well-being. A temporary pause on large-scale projects will provide the necessary time to ensure that future development is guided by sound science, transparent public engagement, and policies that reflect both community values and environmental realities.

We especially appreciate that the proposed moratorium has been designed to minimize disruption to ongoing and small-scale projects, while enabling a comprehensive review of zoning and infrastructure impacts. This approach demonstrates a thoughtful balance between economic opportunity and the long-term health of the watershed.

CSI supports this effort as an essential step toward sustainable growth that maintains the integrity of Cayuga Lake and its tributaries. Applying the precautionary principle now will help ensure that Lansing's future development decisions are based on rigorous evaluation and that the Town's policies continue to uphold public trust in protecting shared water resources.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to careful, transparent planning that serves both the local community and the broader Cayuga Lake watershed.

Respectfully,



Grascen Shidemantle, PhD
Executive Director
Community Science Institute