



Kenneth Kovalchik &lt;kovalchikk@togny.org&gt;

---

## Pyramid DEIS Evaluation

1 message

---

**Donald Csaposs** <donalddcsaposs@gmail.com>  
To: Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

Tue, May 26, 2020 at 1:24 PM

I have been following the periodic postings of public comments for and against the DEIS prepared by the Pyramid Management Group in connection with its applications to build a 222-unit apartment complex and a Costco warehouse club on lands owned by the applicant and located in the "Transit-Oriented District" created by the Town in response to the findings of the Westmere Corridor Study, a planning document created by a collaboration between the Town of Guilderland and the Capital District Transportation Committee, with significant input from a variety of other stakeholders, as well as the general public.

It was my preference to avoid comment on the DEIS, and I have no intention by this communication to express an overall opinion on it.

However, comments have been submitted by a couple of groups that I have been associated with for many years that I find to be vitriolic, over-the-top, and off-point. I am referring specifically to commentary by the groups Save the Pine Bush and the Sierra Club. I have written checks to both of these organizations, written letters in support of their views, and spoken in support of their views at public meetings and hearings in multiple jurisdictions.

That said, I'm not in support of the commentary provided by these groups, both of which infer that the views expressed have the universal support of their memberships. On the contrary, I believe that the scattershot opposition to the proposed development projects put forth in vast quantity largely misses the point on the realities that I find most significant: The environmental science is, I believe, most informed by the views of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, the public authority tasked by law with working to create and manage a viable Pine Bush ecosystem. The Commission points out in its comments that the areas proposed for development are areas subject to prior development, and therefore of little or no value to the Commission in furthering its mission. The potential traffic issues associated with the proposals involve Western Avenue, Gabriel Terrace, The Crossgates Mall Ring Road, and the exit ramp from the southbound Fuller Road alternate. Comments received from Save the Pine Bush and the Sierra Club provide no coherent analysis of or meaningful recommendations for mitigation of these issues. Further, the subject of traffic mitigation within the Rapp Road Historic Community, a location listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is not meaningfully dealt with by either group.

Therefore, while the Town is in possession of voluminous commentary from these groups on the DEIS, and while this commentary claims to represent a monolithic view of the membership, this long-time member- and dedicated activist- takes this opportunity to let the Planning Board know that the views expressed in the names of these groups are not in fact universal.

Thank you.

Donald J. Csaposs  
42 Greystone Drive  
Voorheesville, NY 12186