



2016-10-19 / Letters to the Editor

## Community should question state senator

The Town of Amherst has taken the Climate Smart Communities pledge and is currently actively working on becoming certified by the state.

The program engages communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resilience. Town leaders understand that it will be a competitive edge to be prepared for a future that will see a change in energy sources from oil and coal to renewable, as well as to be prepared for wider variations in weather (as seen in this year's local drought followed by violent storms). Unfortunately, our representatives in Albany are not supporting the town on this issue.

EPL/Environmental Advocates rates New York legislators on their environmental voting. State Sen. Michael Ranzenhofer had the lowest rating in 2016 and the second lowest in 2015. His voting record for 2016 includes votes to reduce the funding for the Department of Environmental Conservation and to add red tape to stall the implementation of New York's Reforming the Energy Vision.

Underfunding the department that reviews the CSC program and trying to close down the complementary REV program seem counterproductive to what our town officials and his constituents are working toward.

Ranzenhofer's campaign mailers boast of his enactment of 78 different tax cuts. There is no mention of how he works on issues that town leaders deem important for Amherst.

For someone who is part of the majority party and is seeking his fifth term, his inability to send out mailers showing passed legislation with direct local impact is puzzling. It also leads to the question: Who is the senator representing? From my perspective, it isn't the residents of Amherst.

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