TOWN OF WATSON
LEWIS COUNTY, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION NO. 16 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WATSON ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, AND OPERATION OF BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS), AND OTHER SIMILAR COMMERCIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Town of Watson is currently undergoing a comprehensive zoning text amendment through a Smart Growth Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wished to establish a moratorium on certain battery energy storage systems (BESS) to allow time to develop, review and update the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that time is necessary to develop, review, amend, and update multiple chapters of the Town Code to ensure consistency with the Town's Comprehensive Plan and to regulate BESS and other commercial renewable energy systems in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town and its residents to temporarily halt the acceptance and approval of applications for BESS and other similar commercial renewable energy systems to ensure orderly and effective planning and code updates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Town Board hereby establishes a moratorium on the construction, installation, and operation of BESS and other similar commercial renewable energy systems in the Town of Watson for a period of twelve (12) months from the effective date of this resolution.

2. During the moratorium period, no permits, approvals, or authorizations shall be issued for commercial BESS or other similar commercial renewable energy systems within the Town.

3. The Town Board shall use this time to:
   a. Review and amend the Town Code, including zoning and related regulations, to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan;
   b. Conduct public hearings and solicit input from residents and stakeholders; and

c. Draft and adopt updated regulations to guide the safe and orderly development of BESS and other commercial renewable energy systems.

4. Any construction, installation, or operation of commercial BESS or similar commercial renewable energy systems during the moratorium period is prohibited and may be subject to enforcement actions under the Town Code.

5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and remain in effect for twelve (12) months unless extended, amended, or repealed by the Town Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to file a copy of this resolution with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with law.

ADOPTED by the Town Board of the Town of Watson on March 11,2026

Motion by: Jeff Lyng

Seconded by: Shawn Freeman

Voting:

- Ayes: 5
- Nays: 0
- Absent/Abstain: 0

Supervisor, Town of Watson

Attest: ____Michelle Ward__

Town Clerk