

Joyce Rebillard
89 Cascade Road
Amenia, NY 12501

Dear Amenia Planning Board,

As a senior citizen living in Amenia the emergency services are important to me. This winter's snowstorms got me thinking about the systems we have in place during times of emergency. Our area was hit hard during the recession and has been slow to bounce back. It is my fear that our police and fire departments have felt the weight of the recession too heavily. Local fire departments throughout the state have been strained from budget cuts and rising cost of equipment. Just last year in Amenia, the Town Board appropriated only \$195,500 to the Amenia Fire Company. We need to be doing more. We need to ensure our community has enough money to keep us safe.

Silo Ridge, the proposed development on Route 44, will pay \$240,000 per year in taxes to the Amenia Fire Company, including Wassaic. That comes out to \$1.7 million to the fire departments over a ten-year period. Wow! That money will more than double the fire department's current capacity and ensure that rising costs and budget constraints do not jeopardize the safety of town residents. That alone should be enough to make this development a huge priority for our community. The sooner Silo Ridge is approved and built, the sooner they start contributing to our emergency preparedness. This cannot happen soon enough.

Sincerely,
Joyce Rebillard

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