

- Hi, I'm **John V. Dennis**, for **Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now**.
- I'm here to urge you to vote in favor of the Salt Mine resolution.
- Cayuga Lake provides drinking water for about 100,000 of us in the three riparian counties. And the Finger Lakes are the bedrock of our region's \$3 billion, 60,000-employee agritourism economy. Especially with climate change threatening freshwater resources worldwide, it is *imperative* that we treat the Finger Lakes as the vital resource they are.
- After 132 years of salt mining under and beside them, Cayuga and Seneca Lakes are the saltiest of the Finger Lakes. Their sodium levels are too high for the 48% of American adults with hypertension. Knowing what we know today about salt mine failure, salt mining should never have happened at the south ends of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes.
- In the handout I've passed around you can see that Hampton Corners Salt Mine in Livingston County is almost twice as productive as CSM. It's mining under land. They've had no fatalities and management has done two Environmental Impact Statements. By contrast, in 5 years of mining here Cargill has never done a single EIS, they've had six fatalities, and they are putting their miners and the lake at risk by mining under geologic anomalies.
- Having just closed and flooded their Avery Island Salt Mine following a mine collapse and two fatalities, Cargill now wants to sell the Cayuga Salt Mine, in secret, with no public oversight.
- Like Avery Island, the mine should be **closed** but not before the removal of all foreign materials and equipment and not before a very careful study regarding the risks that a flooded mine may pose to Cayuga Lake's water quality.
- As long as the salt mine is still operating, the mine cavity under the lake—currently estimated to be 10-15 billion gallons in volume—continues to grow in size meaning a greater and greater amount of saturated brine that could eventually vent into the lake following flooding of the mine.
- Lake Peigneur in Louisiana was once a freshwater lake, and it's now salinized thanks to an accidental flooding of the salt mine under the lake in 1980. We CAN'T let that happen here.
- Exactly how great is this risk? Cargill has insisted that its consultants' annual reports be treated as trade secrets, but our consultant, John K. Warren, probably the best-known evaporite geologist in the world, has concluded that Cargill should not be mining under the continuous scour anomaly running down the center of the lake from Cayuga Power to Taughannock Park.
- A repurposing of Portland Point and Cargill's 5000 feet of lake frontage will increase property tax revenues and create many new and more sustainable jobs.
- Nearly 2,000 people have signed our petition for an EIS and for Cargill, or any future buyer of the mine, to post a \$10B environmental bond with NY State.
- Please pass tonight's resolution.
- Thank you for your time.