

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Fioravanti

Chief Executive Officer

Orange County Industrial Development Agency

(845) 820-1791 bfioravanti@ocnyida.com

Political Interference in IDA Approval Puts Thousands of Jobs, Millions in Tax Revenue for Minisink Schools in Jeopardy

New Windsor, NY: The Orange County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) is raising the alarm over state monitor Brian Sanvidge and Senator James Skoufis's recent attempt to block IDA incentives for a project that is crucial to local taxpayers, job-seekers, schools and public safety personnel. As the state's appointed oversight monitor, Mr. Sanvidge, a principal at accounting firm [Anchin Block & Anchin](#), participated in every OCIDA meeting, public hearing and vote through the months-long review of an application for incentives for a proposed 3.2 million sq. ft. Amazon fulfillment center in the Town of Wawayanda, NY. The project, which will not move forward without the incentives approved by OCIDA on Oct. 23, would create 750 permanent jobs, more than 2,000 construction jobs, generate more than \$50 million in new property tax revenue and deliver other community benefits negotiated by OCIDA. A potential veto of the incentives was never contemplated until Senator James Skoufis, who attended none of OCIDA's meetings, demanded one in an Oct. 24 letter to Mr. Sanvidge. However, including the invalid notice of violation he issued on Nov. 25, the monitor still has not cited a single specific objection to this project or to the IDA's process, nor has he made any comments, despite OCIDA providing him with an abundance of additional supporting detail upon request. In fact, over the past several weeks, Mr. Sanvidge repeatedly told OCIDA and our counsel that he was "not inclined to veto" our decision, indicating he simply wanted more information to address the senator's specific objections.

The attempted veto notice is invalid because Anchin, a sophisticated firm that charges Orange County taxpayers \$250,000 a year for their oversight, was unable to render a veto decision before their state-mandated 72-hour deadline, even though OCIDA and the applicant agreed to extend that deadline ¹ [see further explanation below]. More troubling is the fact that Mr. Sanvidge's notice of violation, which was issued long after his Nov. 10 deadline and which is completely devoid of any rational basis, resulted from extreme and undue political pressure from Senator Skoufis, illustrating that this monitor is not truly "independent," as the law had intended. Adding to the impropriety, the monitor's appointment at OCIDA is set to expire in May 2026 and it is widely understood that challenging OCIDA's decision serves Senator Skoufis's [very public efforts](#) to extend Anchin's appointment by another three years at the additional cost of \$750,000 to Orange

County taxpayers. Anchin is paid by OCIDA reserve funds that would otherwise be spent to prepare shovel ready sites for new job-creating projects or to support workforce development programs. Instead of protecting these funds and reinforcing trust in OCIDA, the stated purpose of his appointment, the monitor's compromised position has severely jeopardized the integrity of his review of the approvals he was tasked to oversee.

If this veto effort were to stand – and OCIDA is confident it cannot – there would be significant ramifications for Orange County and its residents. First and foremost, the County will lose 750 new permanent full-time jobs estimated at \$30 million in annual earnings. These jobs all include valuable fringe benefits upon hire like medical, dental, vision, and infertility insurance; disability and mental health care; a 401(K) with company match; paid parental leave; Career Choice (Amazon's pre-paid tuition program), and the ability to use pre-tax dollars to pay for childcare, all of which are available to all employees and their eligible family members. An additional 2,400 direct and indirect construction jobs which, only because of OCIDA's Local Labor Policy, would be filled by men and women from the Mid-Hudson region, will also disappear with the loss of what would be the largest private investment in the history of Orange County, NY.

Further, the Minisink Valley Central School District will lose \$40 million dollars in entirely new tax revenue over the next 15 years, and an additional \$8.3 million every year thereafter. Millions of dollars in new property taxes for the Town, highway, ambulance, and fire districts, as well as the funding of the construction of a new ambulance bay for Wawayanda Emergency Medical Services and a \$1.5 million cash investment in the Town, will all be forfeited. It is important to note that the site in question in Wawayanda is currently an active quarry, employing less than five people and generating less than \$165,000 total in property taxes per year.

Mr. Sanvidge's attempt to veto these incentives also sets a dangerous precedent that elected officials, and perhaps others, can apply enough pressure to the monitor and overturn a project that has undergone a stringent approval process. Even without a state monitor, all incentive programs administered by IDAs in New York are subject to rigorous ongoing oversight by the NY State Comptroller and the Authorities Budget Office. These departments have validated comparable incentive packages approved by IDAs around the state for similar Amazon projects over the past four years, as recently as two weeks ago.

“All we are doing is using our state-given tools to attract thousands of new jobs and generate monumental new tax revenue for the local community and the school district. It would be a terrible loss for Orange County if politics prevent this and other eligible projects from coming here,” said Jeff Crist, OCIDA Chairman.

Mr. Sanvidge's capitulation to the political pressure of Senator Skoufis, the person responsible for the monitor's appointment, calls into question whether other highly valuable development projects still under consideration by OCIDA will also be subject to similar maneuvers. These include groundbreaking projects in the life sciences, hospitality and manufacturing sectors. All told, the monitor and the senator's actions risk chasing billions of dollars in economic

opportunities away from Orange County and from New York State, leaving neighboring states with lower cost structures – and their residents – to reap the long-term benefits.

Orange County Industrial Development Agency, its staff and volunteer board of directors work diligently to help create quality careers in Orange County. The approval of incentives for Amazon followed the same stringent and very public review process used for successful projects like LEGOLAND® New York and Royal Wine in Goshen, Fiorello Pharmaceuticals in Warwick, and Candlewood Suites in Wallkill.

All information regarding the Amazon PILOT application is publicly available on our website: <https://www.ocnyida.com/projects/>. All relevant documents can be found and downloaded under the title, “Scannell Properties #600 LLC & Amazon.com Services LLC 2025.”

Footnote: Background on Monitor’s Invalid Notice of Violation

The monitor’s notice is unequivocally invalid because it was issued after the 72-hour veto period mandated by state law expired. At the monitor’s request, OCIDA and the applicant even agreed to a written tolling agreement to give him additional time to submit any further questions and consider whether to veto. Under that written agreement signed by Anchin, OCIDA and Amazon on Oct. 25, the monitor had until 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 28 to submit additional questions or request more information. Once OCIDA provided its response to those questions, the monitor’s 72-hour window to exercise a veto would begin. Following is the exact language of the tolling agreement:

In connection with the actions taken by the Orange County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) Board on October 23, 2025 and the October 24, 2025 letter from Senator James Skoufis, please respond to this email acknowledging that Scannell/Amazon and OCIDA agree that the 72-hour veto period under Section 912(3)(f)(vi) of the New York State Municipal Law (as referenced in Senator Skoufis’s letter and said period to otherwise expire on 6:00 pm on Sunday, October 26, 2025) will be tolled until such time as counsel for OCIDA provides a letter to me, in my capacity as the State-Appointed Monitor for OCIDA, responding to the comments in Senator Skoufis’s letter and any additional questions that I, as the OCIDA State-Appointed Monitor, may have, said additional comments, if any, to be submitted to OCIDA counsel no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. For avoidance of doubt, the 72 hour veto period will re-commence upon the earlier to occur of: (i) 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October, 28, 2025, if I have not submitted additional questions to OCIDA counsel by that time; or (ii) OCIDA counsel’s submission of a response letter addressing both Senator Skoufis’s comments and any additional questions I submit on or before 5:00 pm on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Shortly before 5:00 p.m. on Oct. 28, Mr. Sanvidge submitted five additional questions to OCIDA, along with Senator Skoufis's prior allegations and a seven-page letter raising additional questions from a local opposition group who is presently suing the Town over this project. On Nov. 5 at 4:10 p.m., OCIDA and the applicant provided a comprehensive 101-page response addressing every question and allegation in detail. Under the written three-party agreement, the 72-hour veto period re-commenced upon OCIDA's response and expired at 4:10 p.m. on Monday Nov. 10. On Nov. 7, the monitor communicated with OCIDA counsel, via text message, thanking OCIDA for "sending everything over," stating that he "does not plan on asking for additional documentation" and that he would be "sending a letter before close of business on Monday." No letter was sent, and neither OCIDA nor Amazon agreed – verbally or otherwise – to continue tolling beyond the time period memorialized in the written tolling agreement. The time to issue the veto expired on Nov. 10. Simply put, no veto was issued. Any claim to the contrary is unfounded and any "veto" issued after Nov. 10 is a nullity.

It is astonishing that the monitor is now attempting to fabricate a false timeline of oral extensions – extensions that never occurred and could not have occurred without the written consent of all three parties – in order to legitimize a veto issued after the deadline. This maneuver can only be explained by either serious mismanagement or improper political pressure from Senator Skoufis, and both scenarios are indefensible.

About OCIDA

The Orange County Industrial Development Agency promotes economic growth through a program of incentives-based allocations that assist in the construction, equipping and maintenance of specific types of projects and facilities. The IDA works to advance the health, prosperity and economic welfare of our County's citizens by retaining and creating jobs and attracting new businesses. For more information, visit www.ocnyida.com.

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