NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROJECT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RELATING THERETO

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing (the "Public Hearing") pursuant to Section 859-a(2) of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (the "Act") will be held by the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") on the 4th day of February, 2021 at 11:00 o'clock a.m., local time, in connection with the Waddington Solar, LLC Project as described below. As a result of the (1) ban on large meetings or gatherings pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 issued on March 12, 2020, as supplemented, (2) ban on non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason pursuant to Executive Order 202.10 issued on March 23, 2020, as supplemented and (3) suspension of the Open Meetings Law relating to public hearings pursuant to Executive Order 202.15 issued on April 9, 2020, as supplemented, each as issued by Governor Cuomo in response to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Public Hearing will be held electronically via webinar rather than in person. Members of the public may attend the Public Hearing by viewing and commenting on the Project and the benefits to be granted to Waddington Solar, LLC (the "Company") by the Agency during the Public Hearing by logging into Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84754944252?pwd=OVZpQUp2Y2FobUlUOGgwVkZIL1FpZz09 Meeting ID: 84754944252 Passcode: 275721

The Company submitted an application (the "Application") to the Agency, a copy of which Application is on file at the office of the Agency, which Application requested that the Agency consider undertaking a project (the "Project") for the benefit of the Company, said Project consisting of the following: (A) (1) the acquisition of an interest in approximately 55.8 acres of land located at 1020 County Route 31 in the Town of Waddington, St. Lawrence County, New York (the "Land"); (2) the installation on approximately 23.0 acres of the Land of a 5.0 mW-AC ground-mounted photovoltaic solar energy system including panels, racking, inverters, electrical cables, grid interconnection, site preparation, access roads and any other required improvements (collectively, the "Facility") and (3) the acquisition and installation in and around the Facility of certain items of machinery, equipment, fixtures, furniture and other incidental tangible personal property (the "Equipment"), all of the foregoing to constitute a solar energy generating facility to be owned and operated by the Company (the Land, the Facility and the Equipment being collectively referred to as the "Project Facility"); (B) the granting of certain "financial assistance" (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions from certain sales and use taxes, real property taxes, real estate transfer taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the "Financial Assistance"); and (C) the lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sale of the Project Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency.

The Agency is considering whether (A) to undertake the Project, and (B) to provide certain exemptions from taxation with respect to the Project, including (1) exemption from mortgage recording taxes with respect to any documents, if any, recorded by the Agency with respect to the Project in the office of the County Clerk of St. Lawrence County, New York or elsewhere, (2) exemption from deed transfer taxes on any real estate transfers, if any, with respect to the Project, (3) exemption from sales taxes relating to the acquisition, construction, renovation and installation of the Project Facility, and (4) in the event that the Project Facility would be subject to real property taxation if owned by the Company but shall be deemed exempt from real property taxation due to the involvement of the Agency therewith, exemption from real

property taxes (but not including special assessments and special ad valorem levies), if any, with respect to the Project Facility, subject to the obligation of the Company to make payments in lieu of taxes with respect to the Project Facility. If any portion of the Financial Assistance to be granted by the Agency with respect to the Project is not consistent with the Agency's uniform tax exemption policy, the Agency will follow the procedures for deviation from such policy set forth in Section 874(4) of the Act prior to granting such portion of the Financial Assistance.

If the Agency determines to proceed with the Project, the Project Facility will be acquired, constructed, reconstructed and installed by the Agency and will be leased (with an obligation to purchase) or sold by the Agency to the Company or its designee pursuant to a project agreement (the "Agreement") requiring that the Company or its designee make certain payments to the Agency.

The Agency has not yet made a determination pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law (the "SEQR Act") regarding the potential environmental impact of the Project.

Minutes of the Public Hearing will be transcribed and posted on the Agency's website (<u>www.slcida.com</u>). Additional information can be obtained from, and written comments may be addressed to: Richard Williams, Facilities Manager, St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency, 19 Commerce Lane – Suite 1, Canton, New York 13617; Telephone: (315) 379-9806 and electronically at <u>rwilliams@slcida.com</u>. Written comments must be received no later than 11:00 am, local time, on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 to be considered part of the public hearing minutes.

Dated: January 19, 2021.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BY: Patrick Kelly Chief Executive Officer