

LETTERS

# Keep those letters coming

During February, we received a total of 394 letters from you and we published 314 of them. In February 1991, you wrote 478 letters and we published 405.

We welcome letters from readers and are disappointed when they cannot be published. Some letters were not published because we were unable to contact the writers to verify authorship. That is why it is important to include a daytime telephone number where you may be reached to verify your letter. If we cannot reach you by telephone, we send a letter seeking verification. This, and the time it takes to respond, delays publication of your letter, sometimes making it untimely and no longer worth publishing. Don't forget to sign your letter.

To give everyone a chance, we generally limit writers to one published letter every 30 days, so some other letters were not published because the writ-

er wrote again too soon.

We suggest a limit of 200 words per letter. In prose, not poetry, please. We ask writers exceeding this to submit a shorter version. This also delays publication.

If you like, enclose a photograph of yourself, which we will use with your letter if it reproduces well.

We edit letters for brevity, clarity, libel and propriety. We try to publish all letters that discuss specific issues. Often there are many sides to a story, not merely two. Readers on all sides can certainly reply to make their point.

Letters to the editor are meant to offer the opportunity for airing opinions of all kinds. Send them to: Letters to the Editor, Gannett Suburban Newspapers, One Gannett Drive, White Plains, 10604. Our fax number is 694-5150.

We like to hear from you.

generating work for 7,000 to 8,000 New Yorkers?

If you think the right answer to both questions is no, then consider the James Bay power contracts. Unless New York cancels those contracts by Nov. 30, we are going to be committed to sending at least \$13 billion to Quebec over the next few years to pay for power we could find right here at home.

We don't need the power now, and even the power companies are not sure they will need it in the

future. A better solution for our power needs is to implement an energy efficiency program. It will cost less money than the imported power and will create as many as 7,000-8,000 jobs in the heating, air conditioning, remodeling, construction and small manufacturing fields for New Yorkers.

Making energy work harder for us is a long-overdue step. America currently lags far behind Europe in squeezing productivity out of its power. If we are to be competitive

into the future, learning to get more out of less is essential.

It's also crucial to any hope of solving the problem of global warming. Getting more work from less energy must become our watchword if we intend to address this increasingly ominous threat to our future.

The James Bay project will not reduce the threat of global warming. Two new studies from Canada now show that James Bay's disruption of vast tracts of peatlands will produce as much CO2 and methane, prime greenhouse-effect gases, as an equivalent-size coal-fired power plant. There is one big difference: James Bay's ravaged peatlands will offgas for 450 years.

And there are the other, more familiar issues: the destruction of prime breeding grounds and living space for thousands of species of animals and plants; mercury pollution released by massive construction work in sensitive areas; the sorry spectacle of Native Americans' wishes and traditional rights being pushed aside yet another time.

If we want build a workable future at reduced economic and environmental costs, we should turn away from the false promise of the James Bay power contracts. The first step in this process is to pass Assemblyman Hoyt's bill A2162-B. It requires an environmental impact study of power acquired out of the state. Please urge your readers to support the passage of this bill.

**KATHLEEN ADKINS**  
Valhalla

*The writer is conservation chair for the Sierra Club, Lower Hudson Group.*

# HUMAN TOUCH®

