

Dear Kane County Board Member:

As a longtime resident of West Highland Acres Unit 2, I am writing to express emphatic support for the City of Elgin's formal objection to the proposed industrial solar facility. The solar project threatens to alter the community for decades, and its construction is incompatible with the future vision for this critical growth area.

The land in question is prime, highly sought-after residential property. West Highland Acres is a beautiful neighborhood strategically located less than half a mile from Randall Road. Residents have 5 minute access to major transportation, including the tollway and Metra, as well as two hospitals. This blend of suburban tranquility and urban convenience is a key reason for the area's desirability.

Building an industrial-scale solar complex here would be a disruptive and inappropriate land use for the next 35 years. Instead of promoting the vibrant residential development that would boost the community, the proposal would introduce industrial infrastructure to a core residential area.

This industrial complex would have several devastating and irreversible impacts:

- Property Values: Neighbors face a direct threat to property values. A recent study confirmed concerns, projecting a potential loss of 12–14% in property value for homes adjacent to the site. This represents a substantial erosion of family investments and financial security.
- Quality of Life: The constant, low hum from the electrical equipment, potential glare from the panels, and the sheer visual presence of a 10-foot-high fence along the tree line would change the quality of life. The project would strip away the natural greenery and peaceful wildlife that are a core part of the neighborhood's character, affecting the enjoyment of properties and the overall scope of the community.
- Future Growth: The proposal neglects the long-term potential for this parcel. Single-family detached residential development on this land would align with the existing neighborhood and generate lasting property tax revenue for the city and schools. It would attract new families and contribute to the community's sustainable growth, a stark contrast to the minimal tax paid by the solar company.

Consider the immense damage this project would inflict on the surrounding residential neighborhoods. This is a matter of protecting the community's character, preserving property investments, and ensuring that future development aligns with the best interests of Elgin residents. The City's objection is fully justified, and complete support is given to rejecting this solar proposal.

Dolores Argento