

10/30/18

October 6, 2018

Dear Ogle County Board Member:

I am a 48 year and my husband a lifetime resident of Ogle County in Scott Township residing on Big Mound Road directly across from a proposed Solar Plant site. My husband and I live on a farm that has been in his family for over 130 years. We have 4 daughters and 8 grandchildren. Two of our daughters and their families live on the farm and have purchased some of the centennial farm land; the others reside in Marion Township. Five of our grandchildren have graduated from Stillman Valley High School, gone on to receive college degrees, and the other three will also in the future. Upon the death of my in laws, we managed to keep the land in the family. We very carefully selected someone to farm our land that we knew would take care of it. They have done that. Our choice to live here and raise our family has been a good one. We have a mixture of ages living in our rural neighborhood. In the past year and a half, we have had 4 or 5 young couples some with families move on Big Mound Road. They have worked hard remodeling and updating their homes with improvements, taking pride in those homes and a future for their families living in this rural community.

My research on Solar Plants indicate they are an industrial plant not a farm. Solar plants generate energy as the Byron Nuclear Plant only in a different manner. Solar plants will not continue forever, and the components of these plants will have to be disposed of in some manner in the future; or they will become dumps for those living in the area to look at on a daily basis. A solar plant in a rural or residential location will have a definite negative affect on surrounding home values. This will impact lending institutions, our schools, and commercial properties along with the beauty of our landscape. No one will want to purchase a home next to an industrial site. There are questions as to the long term affect this site will have on ground water, etc.

Scott and Marion Townships both put together a comprehensive plan for their areas and submitted them to the County Board. The plans did not include Solar Plants. We have a mixture of residential, agriculture, and commercial properties in these townships and little or no industry. Rochelle, in particular in Ogle County, has spent considerable time and money developing an industrial plan for their area. Has the land being used for landfills been considered after they are no longer of use for that purpose? There would be no foliage and other use for the land. Both of these locations would seem to be a better fit into the footprint of their plans than in a rural, residential, and agricultural township.

We respectfully suggest that the Ogle Board members take a step back before considering approving the location of any Solar Plants. Extensive research needs to be done on the plants, along with putting together a long range plan for the county as a whole. Planning must be done for industrial areas, residential, agriculture, and commercial to ensure the safety and welfare of the people living here and the land. People move here to raise families and enjoy a life of beautiful landscapes and small town values. The proposed location is a mile (as the crow flies) from the new subdivisions south of Davis Junction. Expansion of residential and commercial areas in this township will most likely be in the future towards the Stillman Valley/Marion Township area. Our school district is an excellent one along with many others in Ogle County. Families move here for that reason. We all have a responsibility to preserve our assets yet look to the future by making the best decisions possible for the prosperity of our county and citizens. Our children and grandchildren deserve due diligence in these matters to protect their future and our county.

Your careful consideration of the matter of Solar Plants and their locations in Ogle County is appreciated. Immediate decisions regarding this issue will have a direct effect on those living here in the future. Does one land owner have the right to make a short term financial gain/decision, that will have a negative effect financially and the well- being of others living nearby?

10-25-18

Re: #19-1854

M. Reibel-Zoning

Sincerely,

Claudia & Dean Pihl
11435 E. Big Mound Road
Davis Junction. IL 61020
815-645-8081 or 815-979-0192