



Illinois State Association of Counties

January 17, 2023

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Request for Amendatory Veto of HB 4412

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) respectfully requests that you issue an amendatory veto to remove the provisions within HB 4412 that restrict county zoning authority over the siting of wind and solar facilities.

Zoning authority is an essential and proper function of local government. Keeping these decisions local offers the best opportunity for locally elected public officials to discern the will of their residents when making critical decisions over land use that will impact the aesthetics and property values within a community.

As a matter of practicality, the timetables found within HB 4412 are unworkable for counties. The bill requires a public hearing that must be held within 45 days following the filing of a siting application. The rendering of a final siting decision is mandated to occur within 30 days following the public hearing. This is simply insufficient time for counties, particularly rural counties with fewer staff, to work through the complexities and details that can be involved with such significant siting decisions.

ISACo was heartened to hear you defend local control over zoning during an August 2022 interview when you stated you would not support legislation to create statewide controls over the siting of wind or solar projects. You further stated that there needs to be a continuous conversation between the state and local governments to decide such siting issues together. To my knowledge, counties were not invited to discuss HB 4412 prior to the sudden filing and rapid passage of the amendment in early January.

ISACo respectfully requests that you strike the provisions of the bill involving the Illinois Counties Code beginning on page 18, line 21 through page 34, line 18. This will preserve local control over siting decisions, which we believe is in the best interest of local communities. We do not have a position on the other provisions within the bill.

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Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please feel welcome to contact me at (217) 679-3368 or at jmccoy@isacoil.org if your office would like to discuss this issue or if ISACo can be of service in any other matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe McCoy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "McCoy" clearly legible.

Joe McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Representative Robyn Gabel
Senator Bill Cunningham
ISACo Board of Directors