



Illinois State Association of Counties

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Celina Villanueva
State Senator
Illinois State Senate
623 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Villanueva:

This letter is to convey that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) respectfully opposes provisions within the "Consumers and Climate First Act" that would restrict local authority over wind and solar siting requirements.

Senate Bill 2896 includes provisions establishing state standards for the regulation and siting of commercial wind and solar energy facilities. These standards would prohibit counties from establishing standards that are more restrictive than those included within the Act. The legislation would also invalidate existing ordinances deemed inconsistent with the Act.

Furthermore, the wind and solar provisions include various timetables for public hearings and final approval by county boards that are, quite frankly, impractical and unworkable for most counties. These timetables do not acknowledge the amount of time necessary for counties to review and process project applications.

ISACO supports the policy of increasing the growth of clean energy in Illinois. We do not, however, support industry's desire to curtail the decision-making capabilities held by locally-elected officials. As you are aware, zoning and siting decisions directly impact local residents who are often passionate about how the siting of structures will affect their property. ISACO believes that imposing restrictions on local siting authority will ultimately diminish the voices and opinions of local residents.

ISACO stands ready to work with the General Assembly on ways to increase the use of clean energy in Illinois that do not involve restrictions on local decision-making.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please feel welcome to contact me at 217/679-3368 or jmccoy@isacoil.org if we can be of assistance to you. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Joe McCoy
Executive Director