

October 25, 2023

Kane County Zoning Board of Appeals  
c/o Keith Berkhout, Kane County Zoning Planner  
Kane County Government Center  
719 Batavia Avenue, Building A, 4th Floor  
Geneva, IL 60134  
Sent by email only: BerkhoutKeith@co.kane.il.us

RE: Zoning Petition #4619 (Fabyan Solar Project)

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

I am writing to express my support for the special use application to allow for a solar energy facility on Jim Ariola's property at 40W234 Fabyan Parkway, Elburn, IL 60119. As a nearby landowner, I took special interest in this particular project and I am in favor of its implementation.

We are seeing a growing number of solar facility applications throughout the County and we all should be cognizant of the benefits and drawbacks of building solar facilities. When examining this sort of application, there should be thoughtful consideration as to the conversion of productive/active agricultural land, damage to fragile ecosystems or protected lands, eyesores, and the loss of potential commercially developable lands. In addition, we should balance those potential negative impacts with the local economic benefit solar installations provide to landowners, the protection and rejuvenation of agricultural lands a short-term alternative use provides, and the production of clean energy locally with its associated energy independence.

I have recently heard arguments at various County Committee, Commission, and Board meetings against building solar energy facilities in our area due to concerns about what happens to solar panels at the end of their anticipated 30-year lifespan. To me, this is a faulty argument as all energy production methods require inputs and have waste byproducts.

- Coal – input: coal mining, byproduct: greenhouse gas emissions and coal ash
- Nuclear – input: uranium mining, byproduct: radioactive waste
- Natural gas – input: gas drilling, byproduct: greenhouse gas emissions
- Solar - input: panel manufacturing, byproduct: panel disposal

From my perspective, to argue against incorporating solar facilities because of a supposed issue down the road with decommissioning and disposing of solar panels is a shortsighted and logical fallacy. Not only is the waste byproduct of solar equipment minor compared to other energy generation processes, as with all developing technologies, manufacturing processes and now nascent recycling efforts will continue to advance and, consequently, the specter of solar panel waste byproduct will diminish.

I have reviewed the relevant application and its associated materials, and it seems that all of the potential drawbacks have been considered, accounted for, and resolved. Therefore, I hope you will press forward with approving this special use application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lucas King

Landowner:  
39W966 Main Street  
Batavia, IL 60510

Mailing Address:  
41W964 Hughes Road  
Elburn, IL 60119