

Email Received from mlarso@msn.com on Sunday, 5/31/26:

Dear Members of the Legal Department,

As a concerned citizen and taxpayer, I formally object to the proposed use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF), state, and federal grants for development projects in South Rockford without comprehensive, site-specific review.

The proposed area is an annexed “island”, meaning that surrounding jurisdictions—Winnebago and Ogle Counties—will bear much of the cost, maintenance, and environmental risk until any TIF expires. Even if a TIF is not allocated, projects funded by state or federal grants will still expose these counties and residents to long-term environmental hazards.

The area contains or is adjacent to sensitive environmental resources, including wells, rivers, creeks, and watershed areas. Potential impacts include water contamination, noise and light pollution, and adverse effects on historically impacted communities, raising environmental justice (EJ) concerns. Allocating public funds without full study and mitigation of these risks constitutes poor stewardship of taxpayer resources and exposes residents, ecosystems, and the city to long-term liability.

I respectfully request that the City of Rockford:

1. Conduct a comprehensive, independent, site-specific environmental review, including water resources, noise, light, and EJ implications, using guidance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to assess potential impacts.
2. Establish enforceable responsibilities for any remediation or environmental harm.
3. Ensure no TIF, state, or federal grant funding is allocated until proper studies and safeguards are in place.
4. Record this objection in the official hearing minutes.

Economic development incentives must not come at the expense of environmental safety, public accountability, or community equity. Please provide written acknowledgment that this objection has been received and formally entered into the official record.

Sincerely,

Mark Larson

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