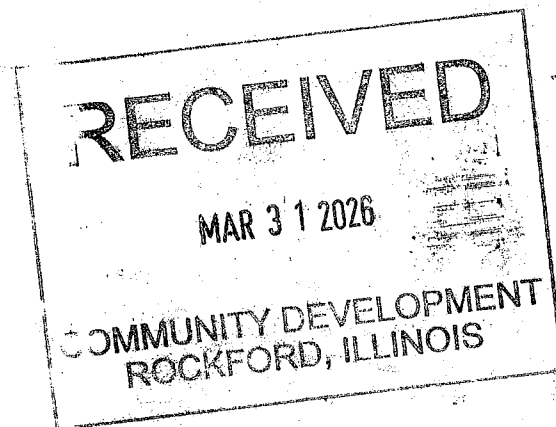


Kelly Lewis
Home Owner



Public Comment
TIF District Extension

March 31, 2026

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March 31, 2026

South Rockford Industrial Redevelopment Project and TIF district
City of Rockford, Winnebago and Ogle Counties, Illinois

Members of the Committee:

One month ago I woke up and was living a nightmare. Imagine an entire month of your worst nightmare. Its been a month but it is just the beginning. I had to quickly process what was happening and begin the fight of my life. The fight to save my own American Dream. The details learned from this process this far from the steps taken locally to taking a deep dive into the significant and irreversible damage caused by hyperscale data centers has been disturbing and horrifying. The thought of losing my home is almost unbearable. Like an elephant is sitting on my chest. I truly cannot believe that all of this could be stolen from me in an instant. For what? Is ChatGBT really more important than my life? More important than the water supply that will most certainly be polluted? More important than all the wildlife and the environment that will be permanently damaged? When does it end? How many people will be hurt? How many resources can we take? They are not endless after all. We can stop the cycle here. We have endless reasons to fight to stop this cycle. The question is...will you fight for us? Will you fight for the environment? Will you join us in doing what is right for you're your neighbors? Your State? Our country? The world? We are counting on you.

I first want to address the TIF. I have always questioned why you would ever even consider putting a hyperscale data center within a TIF district. They need us WAY MORE than we need them. A \$12 Billion project does not point to a company in dire need of tax incentives. Especially considering the community is going to be the ones picking up their slack as it is with higher power bills and wells being polluted and drained. Two of the biggest reasons you claim it would benefit the city of Rockford is the tax revenue and the local jobs it would bring in. While there would be short-term construction jobs, it's highly likely those jobs would be outsourced. Just like all the workers putting in water line out here not too long ago. Yes, there were jobs but most of them came from Texas with the company hired to put it in. When the job was done they all went back home. Then we have a TIF district to entice them with tax incentives that are simply unnecessary. Not to mention a data center would likely be deemed obsolete well over a decade before the TIF would expire. Then what? How on earth would a data center of this scale be repurposed? Would the taxpayers also be responsible for disposing of 1100 acres of useless buildings not too far down the line?

This most recent expansion attempt is yet another slap in the face to those of us living in the painful uncertainty of our futures because of the lack of transparency and calculated steps being taken by our elected officials. The residents who would be forced to risk their health and the lives they built are not collateral damage. They are people just like you. People who deserve to be considered in the plans and decisions that would likely destroy everything they have worked so hard for. My family would lose everything. Our home. Our very first home that we put everything into. The house we would have to abandon and self foreclose or sell it for the pennies our house is worth because of this. Either way we would be upside down and in financial ruin. I am disabled and unable to work so I have no idea how long it would take or if we even could recover financially. The ramp leading up to my front porch has been a necessity when I need to use a walker or wheelchair due to multiple major health issues. Health issues that would only further compromise my health if forced to live with the dangerous risks that come with data centers. Especially in such close proximity. I would lose the memorial gardens that my mom and I created in my yard. Every plant chosen for a reason. All the baby trees we have planted and watched grow in the last 10 years. My horses who already suffer from asthma could suffocate due to the lower airway inflammation caused by data centers. Part of the reason for moving out here was so we could have our horses at home. I would not be able to afford to board them so I would be unable to keep them. All the memories. So many memories. This has been one of the hardest things I have ever experienced. Adding even more residents to your collateral damage bubble is as cruel as it gets. I do not wish this fear and uncertainty on my worst enemy. Not even the elected officials who seem to be eager, willing and able to make the decisions that that will destroy my life.

I welcome and urge you to come out to the land so you can see for yourself just how close this proposed Redevelopment Project Area would be to the homes bordering the area on almost all sides. To see just how many lives would inevitably be destroyed by this type of development. There is no situation where the health and lives of residents are not considered more important than dollar signs. We all know hyperscale data centers are not the only option of an Industrial development. Especially considering the initial Memorandum between the land owners and Monarch was back in 2022 for a Hydrogen Green plant and solar field which was then canceled in 2025 to make way for a second Memorandum for a data center. A green hydrogen plant would not severely impact ones health, animals, the water, the air, and the land. The intention/decisions to take away any home value while also making the home unsafe to live in is immoral Please come to see what this type of development could take from me, my friends, my neighbors, pets, livestock, wildlife, and the environment. I want you to see what could be destroyed for a

few permanent jobs and discounted taxes for a few years until data centers become obsolete and leave their mess and permanent damage behind them. Remember this. Just because you can do something does not mean you should do something. Just because the land is zoned industrial does not mean the industry should be at the detriment of the residential neighborhoods that line the proposed development as well as the expansion. A development that already takes too much.

Finally, I must ask you, would you still want a data center development to go through if it was in your backyard? Would you risk you and your family's health? Would you risk breathing in dangerous pollution? Would you risk drinking polluted water and likely having your well drained by said data center? Would you be able to handle the 24/7 noise and sound waves that are causing mental health breakdowns and decline in areas around the country with data centers with close proximity to homes? Would you welcome the opportunity to assist a data center by offsetting their power usage costs? Would you be upset if you lost your entire home value overnight? Would you be willing to risk staying in the home in such close proximity to dangerous pollution because you have nowhere else to go? Please consider trying to walk in our shoes. You owe us that much. If you would not be willing to do it yourself what you are forcing us to do then there should be no more discussion required right? If living less than a half mile from a hyperscale data center is not something you are willing to do then you should never expect us to do it.

Thank you so much for your time and I look forward to the full transparency I am sure we will have going forward with this development. Including those who will be impacted the most is simply the right thing to do. DO THE RIGHT THING.

Kelly Lewis