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Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

September 1st, 2016

Philip Haddix
The Solar Foundation
600 14th Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Philip,

This letter is to express Will County's commitment to the SolSmart program through the Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC) initiative in pursuit of a SolSmart Bronze Community designation.

In 2014, Will County completed a Brownfield Inventory as a result of local technical assistance through Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to provide highest and best use for vacant land including the intent for solar development. As a result, Will County has been in communication with the Illinois Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134 for the potential to create partnership as nearby active, professional solar installation training. Will County is committed to developing building and zoning ordinances that better facilitate solar development to meet the growing demand for clean energy in the State of Illinois. Current building and zoning codes regarding residential solar, wind, and geothermal were brought into effect in Will County on October 1st, 2012.

Will County has actively pursued request for proposals (RFPs) for an array of solar installations in the community with the aid of both local technical assistance through the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) and guidance from Edith Makra of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to gain entry into the GrowSolar program to keep channels open to a solar market-friendly environment.

There are approximately 10 solar developments in Will County currently with the largest being the IKEA store array in Bolingbrook and including an estimated two schools with solar demonstration units.

Will County could greatly benefit from the development of reasonable, affordable, and implementable building and zoning ordinances that will strengthen relationships between the business community, residents, local government, and the federal government for the advancement of solar.

Will County greatly looks forward to working with the U.S. Department of Energy's SolSmart program to meet solar cost-competitive goals of traditional energy sources.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive