

LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF JOLIET

Dear Residents of Joliet:

On March 17th, the Joliet City Council will consider a private developer's annexation agreement for 1,260 acres located in an area that is represented by Jackson Township. The project proposed by Northpoint will impact Will County for years to come. A project of this magnitude needs careful consideration, especially because it was already turned down by the Village of Elwood.

Every road leading in and out is governed by Jackson Township or the Village of Elwood. This project will affect everyone in Will County when local interstates are clogged with more trucks and local roads with employee traffic. Northpoint has indicated that 5,000 additional trucks a day will be on our local roads and interstate as a result of this project. The local interstates and infrastructure are currently in need of repair and pose a safety risk to all residents. This lack of infrastructure should be addressed prior to committing to a project of this magnitude. The so-called "closed loop" cannot be accomplished by Northpoint or the City of Joliet without working with neighboring communities and the State of Illinois. To suggest otherwise is simply inaccurate. Let's ask Joliet to consider the long-term impacts on safety that this project will exacerbate in Will County.

Neighboring taxing bodies who are directly impacted by this project have not been included in the conversation. Previous administrations all worked together to develop Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. They did not work for decades to secure the pristine land only to have it invaded and surrounded by warehouses and traffic congestion. Supporting this project under the umbrella of economic development without acknowledging the devastating effects it will have on the community is negligent. Voting for a project without consideration for illegal annexations, condemnation of property, and incomplete plans for the required bridge over Route 53 is irresponsible to the taxpayers.

In years past, Joliet has never expedited a project of this size unless the residents, city staff and elected officials were all in agreement. Surely a project of this size deserves due diligence. When Chicagoland Speedway and a minor league baseball team were proposed, it took more than a year to bring to the City Council for a vote. It took 18 months to approve a hotel in Downtown Joliet. All votes regarding the Northpoint project are being taken weeks apart, with very little discussion and no explanation for the rush to get the project approved.

We ask that you help stop this project by attending the Joliet City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30pm at Joliet City Hall and contact the City Council Members to express that you are against this project.

Sincerely,

Jackson Township Elected Officials