



Iron Workers Local Union 380

1602 E. Butzow Dr., Urbana, IL 61802 ■ ironworkers380@gmail.com

Phone 217-367-6014 ■ Fax 217-367-6614 ■ ironworkers380.org

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

06/29/2022

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2022

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CLERK

Eric Thorson, E.L.U.C. Committee Chair,
and Members of the Environment and Land Use Committee
John Hall, Champaign County Zoning Administrator,
and Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals

Dear Board and Committee Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. As you come together to discuss amendments to the Champaign County Zoning Ordinance, please consider some of the positive attributes that wind energy will bring to the area. My name is Charles Black, I represent the Members of Iron Workers Local Union 380. Our Local Union is based out of Urbana, and we cover a jurisdiction that includes parts of seventeen counties including Champaign Co. Most of our members live in the county and the surrounding counties. These are local people that depend on temporary projects, including wind energy projects to make a career in the building trades.

As you go through the process of amending the wind ordinances, I would like to share a few viewpoints from the construction side of these projects. As we all know technology is progressing at a fast pace with a goal to make the world a more efficient place. The wind industry is also following that trend. Larger turbines are producing more energy, reducing the overall number of turbines needed per project or farm. Larger turbines go hand in hand with taller turbines. When I first started working around wind turbine erection the Vestas units that were being installed had an overall height or Tip Height of 400 ft. - 490 ft. depending on the model.

Fast forward to today. Tower Heights are reaching over 625 ft. in the new turbine models. What does that mean to the landowners in the Turbine Farm footprint? Fewer turbines on a project producing more efficient power with less acreage used. Please consider Tower Height and Set Back Distances that will not stop these projects from being developed in Champaign County when making Amendments to the Ordinance.

Even with fewer turbine sites on these projects our local crafts people will be put to work. The economic value will still be there for Champaign County and its residents. Taller towers will still bring revenue while at the same time keeping the impact to acreage used for the project to a minimum. Whether it is a local contractor or a contractor coming from out to town, they also

need local resources to get these projects done. They will bring equipment and machinery that will need maintained, fixed, or replaced. There will be consumable supplies that need replenished, once again putting revenue back in the local economy. I cannot stress how important these projects are to the local people that will be benefiting from the construction jobs that will be created.

Again, please think of the county as a whole and show your support for Wind Energy in Champaign County as you make amendments to the Wind Ordinance. There are years of economic sustainability for the County, schools, townships, fire protection districts, and the working people in and around Champaign County on the line with these Wind Ordinance Amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles B. Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Black" clearly legible.

Charles Black

Business Manager

Iron Workers Local Union 380