

June 4, 2017

Warren Goetsch & Doug Owens
Illinois Dept of Agriculture
P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Dear Mr. Goetsch and Mr. Owens:

This letter follows a letter submitted to you on April 10, 2017 on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Isabel Township, which provided the information your Department requested regarding Isabel Memorial Park and its usage.

We disagree with the opinion of the company as stated in the letter to the IDOA from Frank and West dated 5/12/2017. Isabel Memorial Park qualifies under the LMFA as a populated area within the setback area of the proposed facility. This property has been used for many years for community gatherings, camping, and recreational activities. It will be continue to be used in the future as a community-gathering area visited by at least 50 people per week during the time it is open.

As requested by the Department in a letter dated 3/31/2017, we provided the names of those who have visited the park in the past and those who will visit it in the future. Since we have started recording the names of visitors on 3/21/2017, we have documented 734 visits, which equates with a weekly average of 67 visits. The listing at right provides the number of documented visitors each week up through noon on 6/4/2017. Since the park area is outdoors, the number of visitors is dependent on the weather. As such we feel the number of visitors will increase as weather permits for summer and fall gatherings that are scheduled for the park. In addition, this location is also visited during the Scenic Drive Festival each October, which draws thousands of tourists to our county.

The existence of this common place of assembly within the setback for a populated area requires that the Department deny the application at this time.

If necessary for the Department's investigation, we will continue to provide documentation of the park's usage to demonstrate that it meets the definition of a "common place of assembly" or "populated area" under the law for purposes of determining setbacks.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We await the Department's written response regarding how this issue is being addressed.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizens of Isabel Township
Tracy Tomm, Representative
14002 E Back Road, Lewistown, IL 61542
309-338-1520
ttomm68@gmail.com

CC: Governor Bruce Rauner, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Sen. Jil Tracy, Rep. Norinne Hammond, Sen. Dave Koehler, Rep. Mike Unes

**Isabel Memorial Park
Documented Visits**

3/21 - 3/27	32
3/28 - 4/3	44
4/4 - 4/10	103
4/11 - 4/17	144
4/18 - 4/24	53
4/25 - 5/1	50
5/2 - 5/8	79
5/9 - 5/15	56
5/16 - 5/22	45
5/23 - 5/29	63
5/30 - 6/4*	65

Total = 734

Weekly Average = 67

**As of 12:00 PM on 6/4*