**Model Letter Supporting ISACo’s Wind and Solar Facility Resident Protection Act**

[Date]

The Honorable [Insert Name]

[Title]

[Address]

[Address]

Dear [Legislator Name],

On behalf of the [County Name] I respectfully request your support for House Bill 3563/Senate Bill 2416, the Wind and Solar Facility Resident Protection Act.

This legislation represents a thoughtful and necessary update to current state laws governing commercial wind and solar energy facilities. It aims to empower counties to better protect residents, farmland, and the environment by establishing clear, fair, and locally accountable siting and permitting processes. Key provisions of the bill include:

**Drainage Plan Oversight:** Authorizes counties and drainage districts to review and approve farmland drainage plans. Plans must be created by independent consultants selected by counties and funded by developers.

**Financial Assurance and Deconstruction Planning:** Requires 100% financial assurance for deconstruction costs and ensures review by an engineer selected by the county.

**Additional Time for Siting Decisions:** Extends the decision window from 30 to 60 days post-hearing to accommodate counties with limited staffing.

**NPDES Permits and Environmental Protection:** Requires NPDES permits for projects disturbing more than one acre and affirms counties' authority to enforce stormwater ordinances.

**Zoning Protections for Residential Areas:** Restricts wind and solar facilities to agricultural or manufacturing zones and permits denial of projects in planned residential areas.

**Application of LaSalle Zoning Standards:** Applies LaSalle Zoning Standards to wind and solar permits, ensuring consistent evaluation.

**Aesthetic and Safety Enhancements:** Allows counties to require vegetative screening and berms to reduce visibility, absorb noise, and manage drainage.

**Solar and Wind Zoning Parity:** Aligns solar facility siting rules with wind facilities, requiring annexation or compliance with municipal zoning.

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These changes are not about hindering renewable energy. Rather, they are about ensuring responsible development that respects the rights and safety of Illinois residents, protects agricultural land, and supports county governments' critical role in land use planning.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 3563/SB 2416 and welcome the opportunity to discuss this legislation further. Thank you for your consideration and your support of [County Name].

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your County]