

November 20, 2025

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
555 W Monroe Ave 16th Fl
Chicago, Illinois 60661



Dear Governor Pritzker:

*David F. Underwood, Ph.D., President
3125 Barreville Road, Prairie Grove, Illinois, 60012
Phone: (763) 442-6822, email: president@prairiegrove.org*

As the elected President of the Village of Prairie Grove, I am writing to respectfully request that you issue an amendatory veto of Senate Bill (SB) 25, striking the language that preempts local municipal authority to regulate or prohibit commercial solar energy systems and associated battery storage facilities.

Prairie Grove is a rural community whose identity is rooted in open space, low-density character, and a deliberate, long-standing commitment to preserving the natural landscape. Our residents choose Prairie Grove precisely because it offers something increasingly rare in northeastern Illinois: a quiet, non-commercial environment with rolling hills, tree cover, and agricultural vistas that define our sense of place.

Two large-scale solar projects have already been proposed for construction deep within the heart of our community. These are long-term, industrial installations lasting approximately fifty years that would occupy land historically planned and zoned for future residential neighborhoods consistent with our comprehensive plan. Once developed as solar farms, these tracts are effectively removed from residential use for half a century, altering the growth trajectory of the Village for multiple generations. The scale, permanence, and visual impact of these facilities fundamentally conflict with the rural qualities that Prairie Grove residents overwhelmingly value.

The preemption language included in SB 25 would prevent Prairie Grove, and municipalities like ours across Illinois, from making essential land-use decisions to protect community character, ensure compatibility with existing development, and manage long-range planning. Our ability to guide growth responsibly by balancing private property rights, infrastructure capacity,

environmental stewardship, and local preference depends on retaining zoning authority at the municipal level.

Local governments are best positioned to evaluate whether a solar or battery storage project aligns with carefully-developed comprehensive plans, with public-safety considerations, and with the expectations of residents who rely on their municipality to uphold the vision on which they have built their lives and homes. Preempting local discretion removes this crucial evaluation process entirely.

Like the IML, Prairie Grove strongly supports renewable energy and recognizes its importance to Illinois' future. But thoughtful renewable-energy development requires partnership, not unilateral state preemption, and it requires respect for the diverse landscapes and land-use strategies across our state. Ensuring that local input remains a meaningful part of the approval process is essential for sustainable, balanced growth.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you issue an amendatory veto of SB 25 Section 11-15.5-10, removing the preemption language so that municipalities may continue to exercise their long-established authority to regulate solar farms and battery storage facilities within their borders.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information or if the Village of Prairie Grove can otherwise be of assistance.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Underwood', with a stylized, flowing script.

David F. Underwood, Ph.D.
Village President
Village of Prairie Grove, Illinois
Phone: (763) 442-6822
Email: president@prairiegrove.org

cc: State Senator Craig Wilcox
State Representative Steven Reick
McHenry County Board Chair Michael Buehler
Illinois Municipal League