

Chairman and Cook County Board of Commissioners  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Proposed Patriot Acres Compost Facility Special Use SU-17-01

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter in support of Patriot Acres' request for an Extension of Special Use Permit SU-17-01 Catholic Bishop of Chicago, for their proposed landscape waste compost facility in Unincorporated Cook County. The proposed facility also intends to accept and responsibly process food scraps, which is key in the work of promoting food scrap composting infrastructure for the metropolitan region and the state.

I recognize the importance of this project because of my experience working with companies who own and operate compost facilities and setting up residential and commercial compost pick-up program services for customers and municipalities.

The scientifically-documented environmental benefits of compost include: a) reduced greenhouse gas emissions by removing food scraps from landfills; b) the capacity of compost to sequester carbon; c) water quality protection through natural filtration and reduction of the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers to grow food by using nutrient-rich compost; e) soil erosion reduction; and f) rebuilding nutrients in depleted soil. These benefits help drive a more sustainable local economy and environment.

We support the County's sustainability goal to divert food scraps from landfills and to turn them into compost and urge you to save the only location available for commercial composting in North Cook County.

I requests that the commissioners support Patriot Acres efforts to bring responsible composting to Cook County and end the unsustainable export of landscape waste and food scrap to locations over 40 miles away to distance counties. We join with Cook County to make the environment a top priority.

I support the Patriot Acres Special Use Extension request to operate a compost facility on vacant industrial property in Cook County, and appreciate your consideration of the many positive impacts such a facility will have on local organic material recycling efforts for institutions, businesses and residents.

Sincerely,

Mindy Agnew  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Village of Oak Park