

Myriam Perez– Response to ABP Comment Request

Good afternoon,

Community-driven solar means to me reinvesting in neighborhoods that have throughout the years lack economic development, public safety, and green spaces. For example, BrightonPark, on the South WestSide of Chicago where I have lived most of my life, is an example of where we need community-driven solar. In fact the location I would like to advocate for a community-driven solar project is 4160 S Archer Ave, Chicago, IL 60632 . This neighborhood has experienced a great deal of environmental injustices by allowing truck traffic through the neighborhood and having a lack of open green spaces for the community. On top of all this, when I advocated for a community center to provide a safe space in the community, due to the high rate of youth violence, the local 12th Ward Alderman said there is no profit in a community center. Neighborhoods like Brighton Park not only have been disinvested in but also the people have been devalued. COVID-19 has proved that disproportionately Black, Brown and underserved communities are impacted the most in crises like the Pandemic. That is why reinvesting, restoring, and reaping the value and dignity of human beings is the reason why we need community-driven solar. I became a grassroots educator after working for a private solar company. The solar industry is a growing one with a lot of money to make in Illinois and if we do not demonstrate equality and justice through a positive experience people will not be empowered to transition to renewable energy. People will not trust or be motivated to choose clean energy. There is a lot of education and trust to be built in underserved communities. That is why we need a proposal process to start now to take applications of proposed properties and we need transformational leaders that can center the self interest of the communities and fund community-driven solar now. With all respect, thank you.

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Warm Regards,

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