



September 3, 2025

Dear Mayor John Egofske and Board of Trustees,

On behalf of [Sustain DuPage](#), including our policy group, [DuPagers Organized for Sustainability \(DOFS\)](#), I am writing to express our full support to the residents of Lemont in their efforts to oppose the proposed gas station near the I-55/Lemont Road intersection.

Sustain DuPage is an environmental nonprofit organization that focuses on promoting and advocating for sustainability in DuPage County. Our vision for DuPage county includes expanding our biodiversity, switching to renewable energy, living in a regenerative state, and much more. We vigilantly ensure that the actions of DuPage County residents reflect those targets.

As the Project Organizer for DOFS, we focus on ensuring that the actions of local governments do not obstruct our efforts to promote sustainability in DuPage County. We do this by tracking state legislation, municipal ordinances, and other local government-affiliated initiatives that will affect our environment.

Sustain DuPage believes that the current location for the proposed gas station could cause detrimental effects to surrounding areas, including the Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve. Waterfall Glen is one the largest forest preserves in DuPage County and is home to several rare species of animals and plants—many of which are federally and state endangered species that are extremely sensitive to water pollution. The [Hines Emerald Dragonfly](#) and the [Blanding Turtle](#) are just a few of those animals.

INFO@SUSTAINDUPAGE.COM
13355 W 167TH ST HOMER GLEN, IL 60491



**SUSTAIN
DUPAGE**

1. **Water Pollution:** The proposed gas station sits within the boundaries of Waterfall Glen—a protected natural area that must remain free from industrial hazards. Gas stations rely on underground storage tanks to hold petroleum products, which are vulnerable to cracks and leakage over time. This could lead to contamination of the Samill Creek, which flows through the forest preserve and empties into the Des Plaines River—a river flowing beyond DuPage County. Efforts to fix this can cost millions of dollars and take years to complete, potentially burdening residents if taxes increase to cover those expenses.
2. **Soil Contamination:** Many gas stations rely, again, on underground storage tanks. These tanks are susceptible to leaks, which can release harmful chemicals into the soil. This poses risks to human health, nearby properties, and agricultural feasibility. In Lemont’s case, this could lead to degradation of soil fertility and a decline of biodiversity in Waterfall Glen. This could lead to costly measures to remediate any destruction, financially burdening residents.
3. **Air Pollution:** Gas stations contribute greenhouse gas emissions through the combustion of gasoline and diesel. They also release volatile organic compounds (VOC’s)—organic chemicals such as hydrocarbons—that intensify air pollution and contribute to climate change. This proposed gas station could propel Lemont into an unhealthy Air Quality Index (AQI) zone for sensitive individuals, including children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory conditions.

Additionally, Sustain DuPage has used Waterfall Glen as a past location to host educational workshops due to its rich ecosystem. As expressed by local ecological expert Pat Armstrong, this site is considered a high value ecological site. As such, this proposed gas station would threaten the ecological integrity of Waterfall Glen.

INFO@SUSTAINDUPAGE.COM
13355 W 167TH ST HOMER GLEN, IL 60491



**SUSTAIN
DUPAGE**

Beyond the environmental consequences, the Village of Lemont is likely to encounter significant legal challenges from its residents and environmental organizations, including actions from the Illinois EPA. Many individuals have access to this [website](#), dedicated to raising awareness about this issue, and providing a guide on how to submit a complaint to the Illinois EPA. These lawsuits could become both costly and complex if actions are taken by the Illinois EPA. Residents of Lemont and DuPage County remain committed in their opposition—not only to this proposed gas station near I-55 and Lemont Road, but to any future initiatives that threaten environmental integrity.

We urge you to reconsider your position on this project before further legal and community resistance escalates.

Sincerely,
The Sustain DuPage Team

Lindsay Zimmerman, President, Garden Organizer
Elena Nichol, Seed Cache Organizer
David Bravos, Protectors and Community Cooking Organizer
Stasia Kahn, Vice President, Compost Organizer
Meredith Miscinski, Treasurer
Betty Amore, Board Member
Robert England, Board Member
Ivan Figueroa, DOFS Project Organizer

INFO@SUSTAINDUPAGE.COM
13355 W 167TH ST HOMER GLEN, IL 60491