

Objection Rezoning 1601 Jackson St, La Crosse WI

Hello, my name is Erin Hoy and my husband and I own a house at 1527 Mississippi St. I want to voice our objection to the proposed rezoning for 1601 Jackson Street as a convenience store.

The building has been a commercial business for the 15 or so years we've lived in the neighborhood and we have no objection to it remaining a commercial zoning, but we feel that a convenience store is neither needed nor practical to this location and we have concerns about the health of our neighborhood and children.

First we see that as a very busy intersection, where increased vehicles or pedestrian traffic coming in or out of the lot could cause accidents or congestion.

Second, we see there being little need for an additional convenience store in the area. There is currently the former Citgo at about 4 blocks, Walgreens at about 5 blocks, Ranisons at 2 blocks and Kwik Trip on Losey at around 7 blocks. The variance talks about the area being a bit of a "food desert" and it may be, but we feel convenience stores don't tend to do a lot to bring "healthy" food to an area.

Last but not least we see our neighborhood as being on the upswing. With the conversions of some problem rentals to single family dwellings and an increased interest in neighborhood revitalization we don't want to see our area go downhill. The owners of the Citgo on Jackson sell "drug paraphernalia" in their store. While this is not illegal, we feel having these types of items on display at place where kids go (like a convenience store) sends a message that legitimizes drug use and will bring current drug users into our area.