



City of La Crosse Common Council
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Honorable Members of the City of La Crosse Common Council,

I am writing on behalf of Great Lakes Cheese, Co., Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, Great Lakes Cheese of LaCrosse WI, Inc., to express our opposition to Green Circle Recovery LLC d/b/a Green Circle Recovery's application to operate a junk dealing operation at 3019 Commerce Street pursuant to Section 10-460 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse.

Our facility located at 2200 Enterprise Avenue is a cheese manufacturing and packaging operation located in a light industrial and residential area. As a food manufacturing business, we are subject to stringent local, state, and federal regulations governing facility sanitation, environmental control, pest management, and overall operational cleanliness. The nature of our business requires a surrounding environment which supports these standards to protect the public health and ensure the continued safe production of food products.

We are concerned that the operation of a junk dealer in close proximity to our facility would pose challenges that are incompatible with both these regulatory requirements, in addition to our company's commitment to the health and safety of our employees, customers, end consumers across the United States, and the products we make. Additionally, given the understanding of impacts associated with junkyards and corresponding risks, our national retail and food service customers, along with state & federal inspectors, will have legitimate concerns with a junk dealer in such proximity to a food manufacturing facility. Junk dealing operations often involve the storage and processing of scrap materials and regulated materials that may attract rodents or insects, generate dust or airborne contaminants, impact human health and the environment, and increase noise and truck traffic; all of which results in a cumulative impact and risk to the surrounding community. Although we have no doubt Green Circle Recovery would operate with only the best of intentions, such a business runs the risk of unintended impacts, such as spills and releases, that are specifically detrimental to food manufacturing operations such as ours.

Beyond our own facility, we believe that the licensing of the proposed facility would have negative impacts on our neighbors. Increased heavy vehicle traffic and the accumulation of materials associated with junk dealing operations raises concerns relating to public safety, impacts to environmental quality, and the overall public health and welfare. Given the proposed facility's proximity to both residential developments and other businesses, these impacts could have even broader impacts to nearby residents and other businesses which rely on a clean, orderly, and safe environment.



GREAT LAKES CHEESE

We therefore oppose the licensing of a junk dealing operation in our neighborhood and respectfully ask that the Common Council consider the concerns expressed herein when reviewing Green Circle Recovery's application. I am happy to discuss any questions the Common Council may have regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Wilkinson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Wilkinson, Vice President

Emailed To: City Clerks Office – cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org

