



Capital City Office

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June 15, 2021

President Don Harmon
Office of the Senate President
327 Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear President Harmon:

The undersigned write today to urge you to continue to carefully consider energy legislation, and its impact on ratepayers, as a comprehensive proposal begins to come together. While we appreciate the need to address climate and move towards a clean energy future, such a transition needs to be careful, taking into account critical issues such as affordability and reliability. As we just now begin to emerge from the disastrous effects on our economy caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the last thing businesses in Illinois need is to be hit with a massive increase in electricity costs brought on by flawed legislation.

We believe there are numerous areas of grave concerns with recently drafted legislation, but are in particular concerned with the following:

- The premature closure by 2035 of the Prairie State Energy Campus & Springfield CWLP Dallman 4 will result in increased costs to electric cooperatives and several municipalities who will still have to pay several years of bond debt service while also paying for replacement power. Further, language that includes declining greenhouse emissions caps for all fossil fuel units over 25MW starting in year 2024 will have a similar effect, forcing those facilities to close before bonds are repaid.
- Further, those declining caps will imperil construction of other new projects, causing the loss of a number of other good paying jobs, both union and otherwise. The declining caps will be set in aggregate and for each unit. Twelve years into operation, allowable GHG will be reduced to 60%. There is no feasible way to do this other than reduce operations or invest enormous sums of money into unproven carbon capture technology with no state funding to help offset the cost.
- Estimates of the proposed subsidy to Exelon suggest that the proposal provides \$700 million over a six-year span. This is significantly more than the independent audit obtained by the Administration, which only looked at the financial needs of two facilities, and not the third included in the various proposals.
- Continued inclusion of self-direct authority for energy efficiency for large industrial customers, and a workable definition of qualified CHP to be deemed as a renewable, are important components for a final energy package.

The Illinois Chamber and our local chamber partners below approach energy policy, generally, by supporting competitive markets and competitive costs for energy consumers and endorsing efforts to support a reliable and resilient grid. Viewing energy policy through those tenets, we believe that it is critical to address the concerns highlighted above, and to have a clear understanding of the impacts to ratepayers that will result should legislation as presently constituted be adopted.

This issue is much too important to the quality of life of all Illinoisans and the future of our economy to rush a decision on this legislation. Let's get this right.

Sincerely,

Todd C. Maisch

Todd Maisch
President and CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Batavia Chamber of Commerce



Freeburg Chamber of Commerce



Rochelle Chamber of Commerce



Breese Chamber of Commerce



Geneva Chamber of Commerce



Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce



Carmi Chamber of Commerce



Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce



Sullivan Illinois Chamber & Economic Development



Chatham Area Chamber of Commerce



Metropolis Chamber of Commerce



The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce



Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce



Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce



Waterloo Chamber of Commerce



Flora Chamber of Commerce



Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce



Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce



