



General Assembly STATE OF ILLINOIS

June 12, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

There has been considerable misinformation spread in the final days of the session regarding the importance of the Prairie State Energy Campus and Springfield's City Water, Light and Power (CWLP) coal generation plants that operate in Illinois and represent the newest, most efficient coal-fired generation plants in Illinois. We are writing you today to set the record straight on how important these plants are to the communities they serve, the Illinois economy, and the reliability of our state's electric grid.

Combined, these two plants employ more than 1,100 workers and support an additional 1,000 skilled union tradesmen and women in good, high paying jobs. If legislation is enacted to close these plants in 2035, before the end of their useful lives, there will be devastating consequences. Thousands of employees will lose their jobs, stifling economic activity in areas of the state where jobs can often be hard to come by.

Meanwhile, communities that rely on these sources of power will face new financial burdens as they are forced to find replacement sources of power in short order, which will not only impact municipal budgets but will often be passed along to consumers in the form of higher utility bills and higher taxes. Any carbon tax or similar-type fee placed would also result in increased ratepayer electric bills.

Both plants have demonstrated a commitment to working with policy makers to further mitigate CO₂ emissions in the future. CWLP and Prairie State are leading the way forward on carbon-capture technology, partnering with the University of Illinois and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to study ways to reduce carbon emissions and create future job opportunities in Illinois.

Our state has some of the best geology in the country for carbon sequestration. With continued bi-partisan support for carbon capture investment in Congress and from President Biden, Illinois has a recognizable opportunity to serve as a leader in growing a carbon capture economy.

Last month, CWLP was granted \$47 million from the U.S. DOE with the University of Illinois' Prairie Research Institute to conduct large-scale pilot testing of a carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture technology. The State of Illinois has committed another \$20 million to the project, including \$9 million that was appropriated in the budget just passed by the General Assembly.

Prairie State has a similar partnership with the University of Illinois and the U.S. DOE to conduct a carbon capture FEED (front end engineering and design) study. The study's objective is to identify CO2 emission mitigation opportunities at a commercial scale, which could provide broad value for closing the gap between today's technologies and long-term carbon goals of the future. The grant for this study was made possible by the bipartisan support of U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Mike Bost, and former Congressman John Shimkus.

If Prairie State and CWLP are prematurely shuttered, Illinois will need to import power from other states – likely from less efficient coal plants. This would transform Illinois into a net importer of dirtier power and a net exporter of jobs.

Instead, these plants should be viewed as a bridge to a cleaner, more stable energy future.

Over the last two years, Prairie State and CWLP have met with dozens of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, including lawmakers in member communities and on the committees of jurisdiction outlining these points. We urge you to include language in the energy omnibus legislation that does not prematurely close these plants in 2035 but allows for a more comprehensive transition to a cleaner energy future that protects consumers, workers, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Representative LaToya Greenwood
114th District



Senator Christopher Belt
57th District



Representative Tim Butler
105th District



Senator Doris Turner
48th District



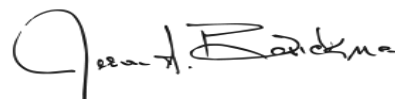
Representative Charlie Meier
108th District



Senator Jason Plummer
54th District



Representative Sue Scherer
96th District



Senator Jason Barickman
53rd District



Representative Dan Brady
105th District



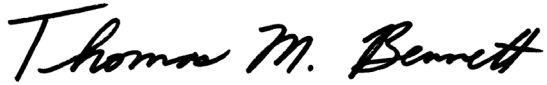
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33rd District



Representative Steve Reick
63rd District



Senator Steve McClure
50th District



Representative Tom Bennett
106th District



Senator Darren Bailey
55th District



Representative CD Davidsmeyer
100th District



Senator Win Stoller
37th District



Representative Norine Hammond
93rd District



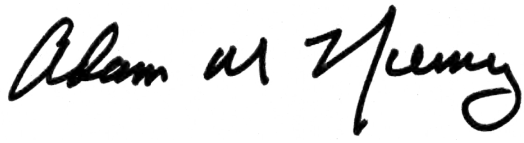
Senator Dave Syverson
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Representative Chris Miller
110th District



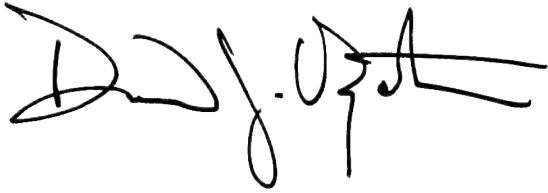
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59th District



Representative Adam Niemerg
109th District



Senator Neil Anderson
36th District



Representative Dan Ugaste
65th District



Senator Jil Tracy
47th District



Representative Patrick Windhorst
118th District



Senator Terri Bryant
58th District



Representative Tom Morrison
54th District



Senator Sally Turner
44th District



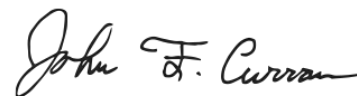
Representative Amy Elik
111th District



Senator Chapin Rose
51st District



Representative Avery Bourne
95th District



Senator John Curran
41st District



Representative Dan Swanson
74th District



Senator Brian Stewart
45th District



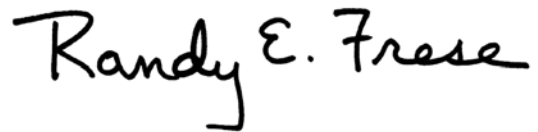
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115th District



Senator Craig Wilcox
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94th District



Representative Brad Halbrook
102nd District



Representative Tom Weber
99th District



Representative Joe Sosnowski
69th District



Representative Michael Marron
104th District



Representative Keith Wheeler
50th District



Representative Keith Sommer
88th District



Representative Mark Luft
91st District



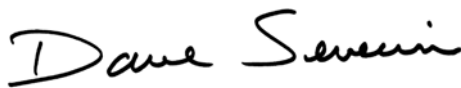
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89th District



Representative David Friess
116th District



Representative Dave Severin
117th District



Representative Blaine Wilhour
117th District



Representative Mark Batnick
97th District



Representative Tony McCombie
71st District

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