



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

December 1, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. – Room 300
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Support for US EPA's Regulations Limiting Carbon Pollution from Existing Power Plants.

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We, the undersigned members of the Illinois General Assembly, formally submit this letter to express our support for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to set first-ever limits on dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants using EPA's authority under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA has both the clear authority and the responsibility to do so because carbon pollution contributes to climate change, a serious public health threat. The 2014 National Climate Assessment found that climate change is related to a broad range of adverse human health consequences, including illnesses and deaths from extreme heat; increases in heart and lung disease due to worsened air quality from more ground-level ozone, allergenic pollen; and increases in food and waterborne illnesses due to flooding, sewage overflows, and warmer temperatures. Climate change will, absent other changes, amplify some of the existing health threats the nation now faces. Certain people and communities are especially vulnerable, including children, the elderly, the sick, the poor, and some communities of color.

The EPA limits other dangerous pollutants such as mercury, arsenic, smog and soot pollution from power plants; it is time to do the same for carbon pollution.

Fortunately, Illinois is well-positioned to meet the challenge of reducing carbon pollution. As you are aware, Illinois is a leader in clean energy policy in the region and nation. Between 2008 and 2012, Illinois was a top five state for renewable energy development, leading the nation in the number of communities using renewable energy. Since 2008, energy efficiency investments have saved Illinois consumers roughly a billion dollars. Illinois' energy efficiency and renewable energy standards are already reducing carbon emissions across the electric sector, while lowering electricity bills for citizens and businesses, and creating tens of thousands of jobs across the state in the process. In fact, in a recent survey done by the Clean Energy Trust, it was found that there are over 96,000 Illinoisans currently employed across the state in clean energy jobs – a number that is expected to grow 9% this year – and is roughly equal to the size of the state's real estate and accounting industries–combined.

However, there is still more work to be done in our state and we pledge to work with both

U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA to ensure we have a strong plan that works for Illinois to reduce carbon emissions. In fact, Illinois is in a great position because of our early adoption of clean energy policies to meet or exceed our state's target; and in doing so, we will achieve even greater cuts in our emissions, health benefits for all our citizens, and will spur further growth in our state's economy. If done right, we are confident the Clean Power Plan will be a positive investment for the economy, environment and future generations.

We urge U.S. EPA to finalize strong standards for the nation as a whole, and we will do our part to meet the standards set for our state.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

**State Representative-elect Carol Ammons
Illinois House District 103**

**State Representative Jamie Andrade Jr.
Illinois House District 40**

**State Representative Luis Arroyo
Illinois House District 3**

**State Representative Maria Berrios
Illinois House District 39**

**State Senator Daniel Biss
Illinois Senate District 9**

**State Representative Daniel Burke
Assistant Majority Leader
Illinois House District 1**

**State Senator Melinda Bush
Illinois Senate District 31**

**State Representative Kelly Cassidy
Illinois House District 14**

**State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia
Illinois House District 83**

**State Senator Jacqueline Collins
Illinois Senate District 16**

**State Representative Deborah Conroy
Illinois House District 46**

**State Senator John Cullerton
President of the Senate
Illinois Senate District 6**

**State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie
House Majority Leader
Illinois House District 25**

**State Representative William Davis
Illinois House District 30**

**State Senator William Delgado
Illinois Senate District 2**

**State Representative Kenneth Dunkin
Illinois House District 5**

**State Representative Scott Drury
Illinois House District 58**

**State Representative Marcus Evans, Jr.
Illinois House District 33**

**State Representative Sara Feigenholtz
Assistant Majority Leader
Illinois House District 12**

**State Representative Laura Fine
Illinois House District 17**

**State Representative LaShawn Ford
Illinois House District 8**

**State Representative Robyn Gabel
Illinois House District 18**

**State Representative Esther Golar
Illinois House District 6**

**State Representative-elect William Guzzardi
Illinois House District 39**

State Senator Don Harmon
President Pro Tempore
Illinois Senate District 39

State Representative Greg Harris
Illinois House District 13

State Representative Elizabeth Hernandez
Illinois House District 24

State Senator Linda Holmes
Illinois Senate District 42

State Senator Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Whip
Illinois Senate District 3

State Representative Frances Ann Hurley
Illinois House District 35

State Representative Naomi Jakobsson
Illinois House District 103

State Representative Thaddeus Jones
Illinois House District 29

State Senator David Koehler
Illinois Senate District 46

State Senator Dan Kotowski
Illinois Senate District 28

State Senator Kimberly Lightford
Assistant Majority Leader
Illinois Senate District 4

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Illinois Senate District 20

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Assistant Majority Leader
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State Representative Cynthia Soto
Illinois House District 4

State Senator Heather Steans
Illinois Senate District 7

State Representative Emanuel Chris Welch
Illinois House District 7

State Representative Ann Williams
Illinois House District 11

State Representative Kathleen Willis
Illinois House District 77

State Representative Sam Yingling
Illinois House District 62