

Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Pritzker,

Some of our leaders in Springfield seem to be ignoring a basic fact about any clean energy legislation the General Assembly passes this year: Without nuclear power, there is no way to get to zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Currently, Illinois' nuclear fleet represents 60 percent of the state's power generation. New solar and wind energy developments won't be constructed fast enough to replace shuttered fossil fuel plants *and* nuclear generation if these plants are taken offline. The nuclear fleet is central to hitting the State of Illinois' clean energy goals in that timeframe.

The only way to get there is by pursuing the plan the Climate Jobs Illinois (CJI) labor coalition devised. CJI's Climate Union Jobs Act provides Illinois a "bridge" to preserve the clean energy nuclear fleet while the Federal and state governments develop plans to manage the transition to clean energy, encouraging the growth of new renewable energy solutions at the same time maintaining reliable energy services to Illinois customers.

The bill requires the Illinois Power Authority enter into 10-year contracts for zero-carbon energy. To protect ratepayers, CJI's legislation includes a kind of "insurance policy" to prevent against paying inflated costs for nuclear plants' operations. If energy prices increase, the bill includes a mechanism that would protect consumers from paying more than necessary to operate the plants, resulting in a consumer credit return. CUJA, in fact, is the only proposal in Springfield that would return such credits to customers. If anything, that makes this measure a take-back instead of a giveaway for the utilities as some have suggested.

In addition to factoring in the basic math equation for how our state gets to zero emissions by 2050, legislators also cannot overlook the fact that shutting down the state's nuclear facilities

would devastate communities. Closing these plants would eliminate 2,800 good-paying jobs that sustain families as well as nearly 26,000 indirect jobs fueled by these plants. Closure would also eliminate millions in tax revenue that some of Illinois' most rural counties rely on to fund schools and critical services. Simply put it is irresponsible to shutter these facilities without a "bridge" to transition our workforce and our supply to renewable energy.

We need the leaders in Springfield to awaken to these simple facts in order for the State to enact comprehensive and effective clean energy policy that will save jobs, protect consumers and cut emissions.

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(ORGANIZATION)