



# How Can We Promote Illinois' Clean Energy Progress & Protect Consumers?

## Support HB 2861

### FEDERAL REGULATORS HAVE PUT ILLINOIS' CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE AT RISK

#### THE BACKGROUND

In 2016, Illinois passed the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), taking control of our energy policies and mapping a path to nation-leading clean energy goals.

#### THE PROBLEM

Federal regulators are imposing rules to nullify FEJA. We can't reach our clean energy goals without a legislative solution.

#### FAILURE TO ACT THIS SPRING WILL:

- Increase costs for consumers;
- Lead to an increase in harmful carbon and air pollution from a greater reliance on dirtier sources of generation;
- Threaten the development of new renewable resources like wind and solar; and
- Threaten the continuing viability of zero-carbon nuclear plants, which produce safe, reliable energy 24/7/365 and employ more than 5,600 workers in Illinois.

#### THE SOLUTION: PASS HB 2861

- Currently, the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) oversees clean energy purchases for the state's largest utilities.
- HB 2861 proposes that the IPA further take control of purchasing zero-carbon energy for the state to help achieve 100 percent clean energy in northern Illinois.
- HB 2861 also protects consumers from bad actors and business practices among retail electric suppliers.

# SUPPORT HB 2861

## ILLINOIS' CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE IS AT RISK

### Federal Regulators Threaten Progress on Zero-Carbon Energy, Spiking Energy Costs

#### THE ISSUE

Thanks to the bipartisan Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), Illinois has become a national leader in promoting the expansion of renewables as well as preserving safe and reliable nuclear energy while keeping energy prices affordable. However, federal energy regulators have since issued rules that will undo that historic legislation, erasing Illinois' progress towards its clean energy goals and making it harder to achieve a clean energy future.

We can stop Illinois from backsliding by opting into an alternative that will let us continue charting a path to a clean energy future by passing HB 2861. Failure to do so this spring could dramatically increase costs for consumers, threaten clean energy jobs and the development of new renewable resources, and make our communities more susceptible to the effects of extreme weather caused by climate change.

#### THE THREAT

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is imposing changes on PJM, which runs the "capacity market" in northern Illinois and a dozen other states. Rules being pushed would interfere with Illinois' ability to set its own clean energy policy. The federal government's actions could roll back the clean energy gains made by FEJA and drive up electricity costs for Illinois residents.

#### THE OPPORTUNITY

HB 2861 positions the Illinois Power Agency, which already oversees power purchases for the state's largest utilities, to take control of buying zero-carbon capacity for the state. This would give Illinois the ability to chart its own clean energy future while growing jobs and keeping energy prices affordable. This plan would:

- **Guarantee savings for consumers in the first year of implementation** and cap future cost increases to no more than the rate of inflation
- **Increase the development of new renewable resources**, like wind and solar, and make it possible to achieve 100 percent carbon-free power for the 4 million utility customers in northern Illinois;
- **Allow Illinois' nuclear plants, which produce more than 90 percent** of the state's zero-carbon energy, to sell clean capacity into the IPA procurement;
- **Put Illinois on track to meet commitments set forth by Gov. J.B. Pritzker** as part of joining the U.S. Climate Alliance; and
- **Implement reforms to the state's competitive retail electricity and natural gas markets** that protect consumers from bad actors and misleading business practices, while maintaining the benefits of customer choice through greater oversight of the electric supplier industry and protections for the most vulnerable consumers.