

**From:** [Jaime Hjelm](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Don](#)  
**Subject:** [External] A Clean Future Shouldn't Come at the Expense of the Working Class  
**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025 7:48:49 AM

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To the members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board,

Let's be clear: we need a cleaner future. But that future must include working-class people—not leave them behind.

This mandate does exactly that.

It tells someone who can barely afford rent that they'll soon have no choice but to buy a new electric car. It tells a single parent in rural Illinois that their 12-year-old truck isn't welcome anymore. It tells tradespeople, contractors, delivery drivers—the backbone of this state—that they need to pay for someone else's idea of progress.

All while the folks pushing this plan have money, options, and power. They'll be fine.

That's not how we should do things in Illinois. We need clean energy, yes—but we need justice, too. And justice means you don't put the burden of change on the very people who can least afford it.

You have a choice. You can reject this rule. You can stand with the working people of this state. I hope you will.

In solidarity,  
Mrs. Jaime L Hjelm  
Elgin, IL