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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board



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STATE OF ILLINOIS
MICHAEL UNES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 91ST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
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INTERNATIONAL TRADE
& COMMERCE
TOURISM & CONVENTIONS
AGING

May 21, 2012

Mr. John Therriault, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
Suite 11-500
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PC# 3

RE: Public Comment in **Support** of the Granting of Ameren Energy Resources' Petition for Variance, Docket Number 2012-126 (Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

Please consider this my letter of support for Ameren Energy Resources' (AER) Petition for Variance currently pending before the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The seriousness of the request, and possible extreme consequences should relief not be granted, compels me to share my views and ask you to grant AER the temporary relief requested.

I currently serve as State Representative of the 91st District and the Edwards Energy Center in Bartonville and the Duck Creek Energy Center in Canton are located within my District. These two plants employ dozens of my constituents and without this variance request, those jobs will be in jeopardy. This would be very harmful to our economic climate in Central Illinois and the Spoon River Valley.

At the time of adoption, I recognize there was an interest in stepping out in front and putting in place environmental regulations to control power plant emissions in Illinois. I also recognize, however, that there was a strong understanding that our state rules would have been followed shortly by similar federal rules. The federal rules would have applied throughout most of the nation requiring other power plants located outside Illinois to install the very costly pollution control equipment at issue in this case. As of today, those federal rules are still not in place and as far as I can tell, predicting what may happen at the federal level is anyone's guess. In the meantime, the people and communities in Illinois could suffer even more economic hardship should AER be forced to take drastic action and shutter any one of the energy centers if the requested relief is not granted.

Therriault.John

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AER is not asking this Board to relieve it of its obligation to install the required pollution control equipment. Instead, it asks for more time to allow the financial conditions to improve and the federal regulatory uncertainty to be addressed. As I also understand it, AER has also recognized its obligation to reduce its impact to the environment and has taken a voluntary lower emission limit that will apply during the time it needs to get back on its feet and manage this crisis. I believe AER is trying its best to meet its environmental obligations under the very trying circumstances it faces.

I ask the Board to please give careful thought to the devastating impact the closure of the Edwards Energy Center and Duck Creek Energy Center, will have on our already troubled State economy and, particularly with respect to these two energy centers, on my constituents. We just cannot afford to lose the good paying jobs and the critical support of our local schools, emergency response organizations, and functions of city government across dozens of communities made possible by the operations of these Energy Centers.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ures". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative, 91st District