

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

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AUG 14 2012

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

August 10, 2012

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

PC# 2643

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:

We are writing in support of Ameren Energy Resource's (Ameren's) request before the Illinois Pollution Control Board seeking temporary relief from a state regulation requiring reductions in sulfur dioxide emissions from Illinois power plants. These new regulations have imposed significant hardships on Ameren's ability to operate critical energy centers in the state. Given the potential impact to good-paying jobs and affordable energy for our constituents, we urge you to approve the Petition for Variance.


As members of Congress, we continue to advocate for a common sense approach to regulation that balances environmental protections with economic development. We believe supporting this request is consistent with that approach. It is important to note that Ameren is not asking the Board to relieve it of its obligation to install the required pollution control equipment. In support of its request, Ameren has proposed a compliance plan that voluntarily sets lower emissions limits in order to offset the environmental impact of extending the compliance dates. By granting this extension, the Board's decision will prevent severe consequences that could result from Ameren shuttering one of the energy centers, eliminating jobs and a critical source of local economic activity.

Ameren has recognized its obligation to reduce its impact to the environment and we believe the company is acting in good faith to meet its environmental obligations under the economic circumstances it faces. We again ask the Board to give careful thought to the devastating impact the closure of any of the energy centers will have on our State economy and our constituents and grant Ameren's variance request.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry F. Costello  
Member of Congress

  
John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

  
Aaron Schock  
Member of Congress