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CHAMBER of COMMERCE & i n d u s t r y

January 18, 2013

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JAN 22 2013

Mr. John Therriault
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St. Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL. 60601-3218

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Porter

RE: Support For Midwest Generation's Requested Variance, Docket No. PCB 13-24

Dear Mr. Therriault:

The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry works to enhance the business environment and quality of life in our region. With that mission in mind, I write to express our strong support for Midwest Generation's request for **temporary** relief from certain State of Illinois air pollution control requirements. We believe it is a reasonable request for limited regulatory flexibility that can benefit our local economy.

Midwest Generation is committed to supporting local communities where its plants are location, as well as to operating its Illinois plants safely and with environmental integrity. It does an exceptional job of explaining its environmental responsibilities and compliance with state and federal regulations. Health and safety considerations definitely come first as Midwest Generation has demonstrated time and again that it understands its role as an engaged corporate citizen of our Joliet region. Like every other Illinois community, we need business to provide jobs and to contribute dollars to our economy.

It is no secret that, like others in its industry, Midwest Generation is going through difficult times financially due to depressed energy prices. At the same time, they are being required to make significant additional capital investments to meet new air quality regulations.

The temporary relief requested by Midwest Generation is intended solely to assist the company manage through a period of financial hardship while avoiding plant closings and/or employee layoffs. The Joliet and Will County generating stations provide good jobs for local residents, and much-needed tax dollars for schools and government services.

I urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to approve Midwest Generation's request for a variance. Thank you for your consideration and for registering my comment.

Sincerely,

Russ Slinkard
President & CEO