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LAWRENCE 'LARRY' M. WALSH, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 86TH DISTRICT
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PC# 113

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CLERK'S OFFICE**

JAN 23 2013

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board**

January 22, 2013

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

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

Mr. Therriault and the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I am writing today to voice my support of Midwest Generation's request for short-term relief from state regulations governing emissions at its coal-fired power plants with the Illinois Pollution Control Board. As State Representative for the company's Joliet station in the 86th District, I respectfully request the variance be granted to protect the jobs of the 247 employees at that station and the financial support the company brings to Joliet and neighboring communities.

Midwest Generation operates its plants safely and is committed to preserving the environment. Even if the variance is granted, Midwest Generation would still meet the state-mandated emissions targets by the end of the program in 2019. And, its emissions from 2013-2016 would be less than projected when current state regulations under the long-term plan were adopted in 2007. Therefore, the request would result in lower emissions than currently required.

Like each and every community in Illinois, Joliet needs business like Midwest Generation to provide good jobs and ultimately contribute dollars to our economies and government budgets.

Midwest Generation's request for a variance is straightforward and reasonable. The company is seeking permission to invest less than it otherwise would have during two years of the State's 12-year emissions reductions program. The company is not looking to back out of its obligations; it merely wants to defer some capital expenses for environmental improvements as it goes through a financial restructuring.

Other coal-fired power generators also are going through a tough time financially due to depressed energy prices at the same time they have to invest in new pollution controls. One of them is Ameren, which last September won approval from the Illinois Pollution Control Board of its request for a similar short-term variance.

I respectfully urge the Illinois Pollution Control Board to approve Midwest Generation's request for temporary variance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence M. Walsh, Jr.".

Lawrence Walsh, Jr.
State Representative, 86th District