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Illinois State Senate
WM. SAM McCANN
STATE SENATOR • 50th DISTRICT

RECEIVED
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JUL 19 2013
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

July 17, 2013

P.C. # 12

Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
c/o John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

RE: Public Comment in **Support** of Illinois Power Holdings' Petition, Docket No. 2013-_____
(Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I write to you today in strong support of the variance petition filed by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary, pending before the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The communities, people, and businesses of downstate Illinois will all be positively impacted if this request is approved. Our state is in desperate need of improved economic development, and I believe this project will help the local community and state of Illinois in reaching that goal.

As State Senator for Illinois' 50th District, I am concerned about the economy of Central and Southern Illinois. Ameren Energy Resources (AER) has previously shared with the Board the positive economic and job benefits the energy centers have on the local and State economy. These facilities employ hard-working union workers and administrative staff and serve as a vital economic engine for my district, the region and the state of Illinois. AER provides well-paying jobs in our community, and its employees invest that money back into the community helping to boost household income for all. The energy centers further serve as an important source of property tax revenue to help support important public services, including support for our local schools.

In September 2012, this Board granted AER's variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so and finding the variance to be a "net benefit to air quality." IPH's variance petition is very similar.

If granted, the petition will provide certainty to employees, their families and local communities that count on the economic benefit the energy centers provide. The variance is a vital condition under the Ameren-IPH transaction agreement. Without the variance, Ameren will be forced to pursue other options for the AER energy centers, creating much local and regional uncertainty.

We must encourage Illinois companies to invest in Illinois and support Illinois jobs. With this transaction, Dynegy is doubling its operations and investment in Illinois as a responsible neighbor and major employer of well-paying union jobs.

A strong business climate is essential for the residents in our communities, and even the prospect of potential shutdowns would stifle economic growth and development in Central and Southern Illinois. Granting the variance offers the best opportunity for the workers, their families and communities a stable tax base that provides critical support for our local schools, local police, ambulance, and fire departments, and countless local governments.

I humbly ask the Board to support the IPH petition for temporary relief to improve air quality, and protect much-needed jobs and economic benefits that we depend upon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam McCann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sam McCann
State Senator
50th District

WSM/cam