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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS



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Dear Honorable Members of the IPCB:

Recently, Illinois Power Holdings LLC ("IPH" or "Dynergy"), the potential acquirer of Ameren's Illinois' power plants sought a prospective variance for complying with the Multi-Pollutant Standard's fleet-wide SO2 standard. On September 17, the President & CEO of Foresight Energy LLC ("Foresight") stated at a public hearing of the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("IPCB") that Foresight, or one of its affiliates, would be prepared to finance the scrubbers needed at the IPH plants, under certain conditions, to allow the plants to comply with the existing MPS standards and forego the need for a variance.

We write this letter to you because we are in support of Foresight and its proposed solution. Foresight's operations, all developed within the last 5 years, have been a boon for the community and have been directly responsible for bringing jobs to our districts. Foresight Energy is the largest coal producer in the state of Illinois with over 3 billion tons of coal reserves. Since 2005, the company has invested nearly \$2 billion in these coal mines and related transportation infrastructure. Foresight employs over 700 employees at its mines and supports more than 2,000 additional jobs in supporting industries. Foresight is a privately held company whose principals have the financial wherewithal to fund the completion of the scrubber and have prior experience owning and managing power plants.

Until the date of the hearing, the decision by the IPCB had been characterized as a decision between maintaining jobs at the cost of pollution, or, preserving the environment at the cost of jobs. At the hearing, we learned of Foresight's unexpected solution – a win-win situation for all parties. As a result, we are changing our position on the IPH's request for variance. Foresight's proposed solution preserves jobs at the power plant, increases jobs in the Illinois coal industry, improves the environment and potentially reduces the cost of electricity for Illinois consumers. As elected officials in Illinois, we are in agreement with Foresight's recommendations that i) IPH's variance be denied, ii) the scrubber at Newton be built upon the originally agreed timeline, and iii) Foresight fund the remaining construction.

Illinois cannot afford to lose any more jobs nor can it permit power plants to pollute the environment. Foresight has proposed a win-win, viable solution that benefits all constituencies. It is the best solution for the continued operation of power plants and the preservation of jobs associated with those power plants. Therefore, we join Foresight in asking the IPCB to deny the Petitioners request for a variance.

Sincerely,

Senator Andy Manar  
48<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Senator Sam McCann  
50<sup>th</sup> Legislative District