

**From:** Leanne Storch  
**To:** [Brown, Don](#)  
**Subject:** [External] R2018-20: Please protect my lungs - Oppose Illinois EPA-proposed rule change.  
**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 9:27:13 AM

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Dear Pollution Control Board Chairman and Board Members,

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has proposed a drastic change to state air pollution rules that eliminates provisions which have greatly limited harmful emissions from approximately half the coal power plants in the state. The proposed change would allow a company that operates a collection of eight large coal plants to shut down its least polluting power plants, which do the least damage to public health, and to instead run their dirtiest plants more. This would increase emissions and sicken and threaten the lives of more Illinois residents.

The state should not be weakening its existing strong public health protections, nor should it incentivize a company to produce more power from its dirtiest and most damaging power plants at the expense of Illinois residents' health. Because of the threat this rule change poses to vulnerable populations in Illinois, such as children living with asthma and adults living with COPD who are most sensitive to and most affected by increases in air pollution, I strongly urge you to oppose this IEPA proposed rule that would only benefit a major polluter. One corporation should not benefit while hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents living with lung disease are subjected to increases in air pollution.

The science has been clear for many years that allowing more pollution in the air people breathe makes more people sick and leads to more premature deaths. U.S. EPA says that people's health is harmed and many deaths occur from breathing air pollution even when pollution concentrations are below the legal allowable limit set by the federal government. IEPA's focus should be on doing everything it can to protect the health of Illinoisans and not merely meeting minimal federal standards which still allow air pollution concentrations that make people sick and threaten people's lives. In weakening existing state protections that now limit sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and the caustic ozone gas and deadly fine particles they form when they are released by power plants, Illinois EPA's proposal would deliberately allow major polluters to harm more Illinois residents. Because this change would put my health and the health of my family and community at risk, I ask that the Board reject the change proposed by the Illinois EPA.

Thank you,

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