

DISTRICT OFFICE:
THE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
164 DIVISION STREET, STE. 102
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120
PHONE: (847) 214-8864
FAX: (847) 214-8867

CAPITOL OFFICE:
M121 CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: (217) 782-7746



COMMITTEES:
• TRANSPORTATION, VICE CHAIR
• COMMERCE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
• FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
• HIGHER EDUCATION
• LOCAL GOVERNMENT
• TELECOMMUNICATIONS
& INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

CRISTINA CASTRO
STATE SENATOR • 22ND DISTRICT

To The Illinois Pollution Control Board
CC: Hearing Officer Marie Tipsord

Re: Case R2018-20

As a legislator in Illinois, I have significant concerns regarding Dynegy's attempt to weaken their Multi Pollutant Standard (MPS). These regulations are important protections for communities throughout the state, especially those that are overburdened with air pollution. The MPS rewrite threatens our public health and environment, while also setting us back in our work to tackle climate change and advance clean energy innovation. These issues are of significant importance for all communities throughout Illinois, and certainly for the 22nd District of Illinois which includes Schaumburg, Elgin, Barrington Hills, East Dundee, Hoffman Estates, Streamwood, Bartlett, Carpentersville and Hanover Park.

I urge the members of The Illinois Pollution Control Board to deny Dynegy's proposed rewrite of the Multi Pollutant Standard. Changing the rule from a rate-based standard to a fleet wide cap that is significantly above the fleet's actual emission levels presents a risk of increased air pollution for communities throughout Illinois including those in my district. As reported in the Chicago Tribune, "Under the new rules, Dynegy could emit nearly double the amount of harmful sulfur dioxide they emitted last year." Pollution does not stop at county boundaries and although I do not represent constituents in the immediate vicinity of the Dynegy coal plants, my constituents are indeed impacted air pollution emitted in other communities.

I am also concerned that this proposal comes from 8 months of backroom talks between Dynegy and the Illinois EPA as reported in the Chicago Tribune. On several occasions already, Dynegy has been granted delays and changes to the MPS and I ask that the Board deny this latest proposal which undermines the intent of this important clean air standard. The MPS was created in 2006 to protect Illinois residents from dangerous air pollution from coal-fired power plants when the federal government was failing to act.

Once again our federal government is rolling back environmental regulations and instead of stepping up to ensure Illinois environmental health is protected, we are abdicating our leadership with this proposal. In 2018, profitable companies such as Dynegy and Vistra Energy should be held accountable to its pollution and responsibly installing modern pollution controls for its coal fleet or investing in cleaner and more economically viable sources of generation.

For these reasons, I am writing in to urge the Board to reject this proposal.

Thank you,

Senator Cristina Castro
State Senator, 22nd District