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La Shawn K. Ford

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
8TH DISTRICT

April 18, 2018

Illinois Pollution Control Board
 Hearing Officer Marie Tipsord
 James R. Thompson Building
 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
 Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Case R2018-20

As a legislator in Illinois, I have significant concerns regarding Dynegy's attempt to once again weaken Illinois' 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 public health, environment protection, and sets Illinois back in our work to address climate change and grow our clean energy economy.

My constituents already face high rates of asthma above the national average and are uniquely sensitive to exposure to air pollution. My district has a critical interest in making sure Illinois not only maintains the integrity of existing air pollution rules but also continues to strengthening state protections as air quality worsens from the impacts of climate change.

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 as it fundamentally reshapes the structure of the original rule and 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 opposition to this rulemaking, and urge IPCB to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
 State Representative – Eighth District