

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAPITOL OFFICE
259-S Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
217-782-5970 Fax 217-558-1253

DISTRICT OFFICE
County Office Building
1504 3rd Ave.
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
309-558-3612 Fax 309-793-4764



PATRICK J. VERSCHOORE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
72ND DISTRICT

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January 24, 2013

Mr. John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE
JAN 25 2013
PCB 514
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Re: Support for Midwest Generation's Requested Variance, Docket No. PCB 13-24

Dear Mr. Therriault:

I would like to be on record with the Illinois Pollution Control Board as strongly supporting Midwest Generation in its request for short-term relief from state regulations governing emissions at its coal-fired power plants. It is a reasonable request for a small amount of regulatory flexibility that can greatly benefit local economies and jobs.

Midwest Generation is a major provider of much-needed jobs -- at its plants throughout Illinois and through supplies and services it buys from Illinois companies. Nearly 65 percent of its 850 employees are union members. Hundreds of additional union members in the building and construction trades work on special projects in the plants, often installing new pollution controls. Additionally, the company pays nearly \$5 million in property taxes to support schools and municipal services.

Midwest Generation is a company that conducts itself with a great deal of integrity and responsibility to stakeholders -- whether employees, policymakers or communities surrounding its plants. Its request for a variance is straightforward and reasonable.

All Midwest Generation seeks is permission to invest less than it otherwise would have during just two years of the State's 12-year emissions reductions program. The company is not avoiding its responsibilities; it merely needs to defer some capital expenses for environmental improvements as it goes through a financial restructuring.

The temporary relief requested by Midwest Generation is intended to help the company manage through a period of financial hardship and hopefully avoid plants closings and layoffs.

Even if granted the variance, Midwest Generation would still hit the state-mandated emissions targets by the end of the program in 2019. And, its emissions from 2013-16 would be less than projected when current state regulations were adopted in 2007. In other words, the request would result in lower emissions than currently required.

RECYCLED PAPER - SOYBEAN INKS

Thank you for considering and registering my comment in support of Midwest Generation's request.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Verschoore
State Representative, 72nd District