



ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

Darin LaHood

STATE SENATOR • 37TH DISTRICT
email: SenatorLaHood@att.net

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

JUL 23 2013

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

P.C. 47

July 22, 2013

Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
C/o John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3218

RE: Public Comment in **Support** of Illinois Power Holdings' Petition, Docket No.
2014-~~10~~10
(Air-Variance)

Dear Honorable Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of the people, communities and businesses in downstate Illinois, I write to you today to emphasize my support for the variance petition filed by Illinois Power Holdings (IPH), a Dynegy subsidiary, currently pending before the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The seriousness of the request and the need to foster a positive business climate to support a struggling Illinois economy compels me to share my views and ask you to authorize IPH's variance request.

I currently serve as the elected State Senator for the 37th District and I am concerned about the economic well-being of our Central and Southern Illinois economy. Ameren Energy Resources (AER) has previously shared with the Board the positive economic and job benefits the energy centers have on the local and State economy. These facilities employ hard-working union workers and serve as a vital economic engine for my district, the region and the state of Illinois. Not only does AER currently provide well-paying jobs in our community, but AER employees also invest that money back into the community helping to boost household income for all. The energy centers further serve as an important source of property tax revenue to help support important public services, including support for our cash-strapped schools.

In September 2012, this Board saw fit to grant AER's variance request, recognizing both the environmental and economic benefits of doing so and finding the variance to be a "net benefit to air quality." IPH's variance petition is materially the same as the existing variance. It is important to note that all of the relevant market and economic conditions that led to the need for the existing variance remain substantially unchanged.

ROOM M103F STATE CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217/782-1942
FAX: 217/782-9586

64 S. PRAIRIE, SUITE 4
GALESBURG, IL 61401
309/343-8176
FAX: 309/343-2683

400 N. MAIN STREET
PRINCETON, IL 61356
815/872-1964
FAX: 815/872-1965

5415 NORTH UNIVERSITY
SUITE 105
PEORIA, IL 61614
309/693-4921
FAX 309/693-4923

The petition, if granted, will provide continued certainty to the employees, their families and communities that count on the economic benefit the energy centers provide. Obtaining the variance is a closing condition under the Ameren-IPH transaction agreement. Without the variance, Ameren will be forced to pursue other options for the AER energy centers, creating uncertainty about the plants' futures.

Dynegy and its subsidiaries are committed to Illinois and our environment, recently investing \$1 billion in an environmental upgrade program at its Illinois facilities, creating over 2,000 construction jobs across Illinois. IPH is committed to the responsible operation of the AER energy centers and their communities – consistent with the Board-ordered compliance commitments set forth in the existing variance.

We need to encourage Illinois companies to continue to invest in Illinois and support union jobs.

With this transaction, Dynegy is doubling its operations and investment in Illinois as a responsible neighbor and major employer of well-paying union jobs.

A vibrant employer climate is essential for the residents in our communities, and even the prospect of potential shutdowns would stifle economic growth and development in Central and Southern Illinois. A successful transfer of the plants to IPH offers the best opportunity for the workers, their families and for our communities, a stable tax base that provides critical support for our local schools, emergency response organizations and countless local governments.

Considering the opportunity before us, I ask the Board to support the IPH petition for temporary relief as the best path forward for improving air quality, while protecting much-needed jobs and economic benefits that we depend upon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darin LaHood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

State Senator Darin LaHood
37th District
309-693-4921