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Linda Holmes
Assistant Majority Leader
State Senator • 42nd District

Committees:
Vice-Chairperson
- Local Government
Member:
- Agriculture
- Executive
- Labor
- Special Committee
on Pensions

May 13, 2025

Don Brown
Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
60 E. Van Buren St., Suite 630
Chicago, IL 60605

Re: Public Comment in IPCB R2025-21: Placement of Limestone Residual Materials

Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

I write today to express my strong support for the proposal submitted by the City of Aurora and HolcimUS to establish a regulatory framework for the placement of Lime Residual Materials (LRM) in underground mines. As the State Senator representing Illinois' 42nd District and the City of Aurora, and a sponsor of the legislation mandating the rules included in this proposal, I have long been an advocate for the safe and cost-effective management of this material when that management is accompanied by strong environmental safeguards. I believe we accomplished that in House Bill 3095. While this legislation was adopted in the spring of 2023, my work towards this resolution encompassed many years before it was ultimately signed by the Governor, and I therefore urge the Board to move forward with expeditiously adopting the proposal before it.

Currently, Illinois farmers use LRM on their farm fields to address soil acidity issues. Clearly, if managed appropriately, the material itself does not pose a threat to the environment if it can be applied to land with only modest oversight from the Agency. Further, providing an alternative method for managing LRM beyond land application could free up millions of dollars for the City to put towards other environmental concerns, such as lead service line replacement, emerging contaminant control, or other water treatment needs. The proposed rules before you today reflect not just my commitment, but also the City of Aurora's commitment to sound management of citizen's tax dollars, as well as the safety of the public, sustainable environmental practices, and the innovative use of these materials.

I fully support the City of Aurora in this endeavor and commend them for proposing a plan that reflects both innovation and responsibility. I am confident that these rules are well-developed and will provide lasting benefits to the City of Aurora and the State of Illinois. I urge the Board to adopt these rules.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Holmes".

The Honorable Linda Holmes
State Senator, 42nd District