

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
50th DISTRICT**BARBARA HERNANDEZ**

May 9, 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 the City of Aurora and HolcimUS submitted to establish a regulatory framework for the placement of Lime Residual Materials (LRM) in underground mines. As the State Representative for Illinois' 50th 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. For years, the City has long been at work to find a suitable regulatory approach that addresses the interests of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency while also zealously guarding local city finances, and House Bill 3095 is a culmination of that work. I urge the Board to move forward with expeditiously adopting this proposal which would implement HB 3095.

In the City's discussions with the Illinois EPA regarding LRM management, the Agency has expressed little concern with the material itself, having approved land application permits for the application of LRM to farm field or an underground injection permit to inject LRM underground. The issue, instead, is about finding the appropriate regulatory mechanism for placing LRM underground. House Bill 3095 was introduced for just that reason: to create a mechanism to place this material underground via truck as opposed to via injection. This small, but important change in the means of conveyance will save the City millions of dollars that can be used for countless other priorities.

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 "Barbara Hernandez". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Barbara" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Hernandez".

The Honorable Barbara Hernandez
State Representative, 50th District