



February 1, 2021

Dear Governor JB Pritzker and Members of the Illinois General Assembly,

As employers with operations, investments, and business interests in Illinois, we write to express our support and stress the urgency of legislative action to accelerate the state's transition to 100% clean energy and to build a cleaner, more equitable transportation system. We call on Illinois lawmakers to pass policies that will help our businesses, employees, and communities manage the multiple crises facing the state: the economic recession, the global pandemic, the equity and social justice crisis, and climate change.

As major energy consumers with diverse supply chains, we understand firsthand the substantial risks posed by inaction on climate change as well as the significant opportunities created by a transition to a zero-carbon economy. We must take advantage of clean energy technologies including renewables, energy efficiency, energy storage, and electric vehicles in order to remain competitive and cutting edge in the marketplace. Corporate renewable energy projects represent half of all renewable energy investments in the state (nearly 1.5 GW), and demand for renewables continues to grow. In fact, 100 Illinois companies have already committed to power their operations with 100% renewable energy. Meanwhile, energy efficiency remains the cheapest way to meet our energy needs and it also improves our bottom lines. Similarly, investment in transportation electrification reduces fuel and maintenance costs and is critical for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. For all of these reasons, we support stronger clean energy and transportation programs that would provide the necessary market certainty to drive economic recovery, support in-state job creation, invest in resilient infrastructure, and attract new businesses.

Strengthening Illinois' clean energy and transportation programs will also help the state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, build regulatory accountability, and secure a just future for communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. In order to enact equitable climate legislation, it is critical that any new energy proposal you consider is the product of an inclusive, transparent stakeholder process. Specifically, the communities impacted by the transition away from fossil fuel-fired generation and those most burdened by air pollution must have a seat at the table.

To put Illinois on a path to recovery and build back better than before, we stand ready to work with you and offer our experience, expertise, and partnership. We have a vanishing window in which to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and there is no time to wait.

Sincerely,

Advocate Aurora Health

Ameresco

CommonSpirit Health

Cree Lighting

Energy Management Solutions

Impossible Foods

IKEA Retail US

JLL

Lutron

Mars

Microsoft

National Association for Energy Service

Companies (NAESCO)

Nestlé

PayPal

Proctor Engineering

Salesforce

Schneider Electric

Seventh Generation

Siemens

Unilever

University of Illinois System

Uplight

For more information, please contact Deana Dennis, State Policy at Ceres, at ddennis@ceres.org.