



Illinois Retail Merchants Association



ILLINOIS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION



GRAIN & FEED ASSOCIATION of Illinois



Illinois Chapter



Chemical Industry Council of Illinois



June 14, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
207 State House
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

In 1997, Illinois deregulated the energy market resulting in billions of dollars in savings for homeowners and businesses. Our low-cost energy prices and reliable grid have been cited by governors time and again as reasons why businesses should stay in or relocate to Illinois.

Twenty-four years later, instead of building on this strength, the proposed energy legislation being circulated will be the largest rate hike on consumers and businesses in history. At least as it has been described to us by several of those who have been fortunate enough to be included in the discussions.

This legislation not only includes a rate hike for low-income families in every part of this state, but also on every business and organization large and small. Lobbyists for the environmental community and many others appear to have had unfettered access in writing a bill that imposes massive costs on others. On several occasions we have requested economic, reliability, and rate impact studies and the raw data inputs that undergird them. Those requests have been ignored. These are landmark energy changes will upend Illinois' competitive energy marketplace. Ironically, as the state and Chicago proudly announced the Phase 5 reopening many of those same businesses and organizations are going to be saddled with significantly higher electricity costs, as reflected by those industries that have signed this letter.

At a minimum, we project the first installment of the cost increase on businesses and municipalities to be \$700 million annually; including an additional \$215 million to pay for new programs paid for by ratepayers without their input. Due to the lack of transparency and accountability in this process – meaning there is no data provided to outline the costs of every fee, mandate, and regulation in this bill – we are calling this legislation an installment because this legislation will only keep sending higher bills every step of the way. In a nutshell, this legislation will be a credit card that keeps spending money without any accountability. Period.

Since 1997, there has never been energy legislation subject to less transparency or accountability. Given the lack of transparency under which it has been developed, rate payers and policy makers deserve the benefit of full disclosure and independent verification of the cost impacts.

On behalf of the people most impacted by this legislation, we urge you to delay this legislation and meaningfully engage the consumers, business owners, organizations and municipalities that will be saddled with the costs.

Sincerely,

Rob Karr

President & CEO
Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Farzin Parang

Executive Director
BOMA

Kevin Johnson

Interim President
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association

Mark A. Biel

Chief Executive Officer
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois

Bob Myers

President
Associated Beer Distributors of Illinois

Pat Doerr

Managing Director
Hospitality Business Association of Chicago

Jim Watson

Executive Director
API-Illinois Petroleum Council

Mark Grant

Illinois State Director
National Federation of Independent Business

Steve Longhta

President
Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers

Chris Hembrough

President & CEO
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Mark Denzler

President & CEO
Illinois Manufacturers' Association

Brad Cole

Executive Director
Illinois Municipal League

Jeffrey D. Adkisson

Executive Vice President
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

Michael Jacobson

President & CEO
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association

Daniel D. Clausner

Executive Director
Illinois Licensed Beverage Association

Josh Sharp

CEO
Illinois Fuel and Retail Association

Todd Maisch

President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Alicia Martin

President
Associated Builders & Contractors, IL Chapter

Jody A. Kohl

Managing Director
Midwest Hardware Association

Kathy Gilmore

President
Valley Industrial Association

CC: House Speaker Chris Welch
House Minority Leader Jim Durkin
Senate President Don Harmon
Senate Minority Leader Dan McConchie
Members of the Illinois House
Members of the Illinois Senate