

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable John J. Cullerton
Senate President
327 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Christine Radogno
Senate Minority Leader
309G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Jim Durkin
House Minority Leader
316 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner and Legislative Leaders:

We are writing to respectfully urge you to consider a legislative solution that will allow Illinois' nuclear plants to continue to operate. America is currently experiencing an energy renaissance, but while much of the attention has gone to the advent of enhanced oil and natural gas development, none of this would be possible without a crucial, clean energy source made available through nuclear power right here in Illinois.

Illinois leads the nation in nuclear energy production where its six state-of-the-art plants provide our state with 48 percent of its electricity. These plants produce substantial benefits for Illinois residents and businesses, ensuring reliable carbon-free power, driving economic growth by injecting nearly \$9 billion per year into the state economy, and employing thousands of highly skilled workers in quality, well-paying jobs.

Unfortunately, this energy source, along with our state's economic recovery, is in jeopardy if state and federal policymakers do not act soon. A number of our nuclear plants are at risk of premature closure because of economic and market challenges, including historically low natural gas prices, and policies that fail to recognize the environmental and reliability benefits of nuclear energy.

The report recently prepared at the request of the Illinois General Assembly found that Illinois would lose nearly 8,000 jobs and \$1.8 billion in annual economic activity if just three plants close their doors. This not only confirms the value of the state's nuclear plants overall, but also highlights the negative consequences that closures would have on the state and surrounding region.

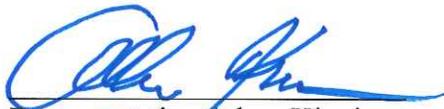
Perhaps even more striking is the potential impact these closures would have on electric rates. Estimates show the potential for wholesale power prices to increase by \$437 million for ComEd customers in northern Illinois in the first year alone, while additionally costing up to \$1.2 billion for the area encompassing Ameren customers throughout the rest of the state.

It is imperative that, as policymakers, we take these risks seriously and do what we can to prevent plant closures. At the federal level, we are working hard to ensure that federal legislation and regulations treat nuclear power equitably to allow for the continued operation of at-risk plants in Illinois, but this alone may not be enough.

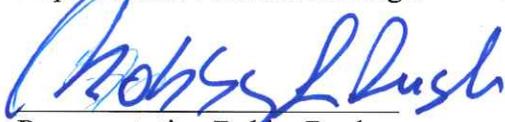
Included in the Illinois agencies' report are a number of market-based solutions that could enable these plants to continue their operations. With this in mind, we respectfully request that the General Assembly move to quickly consider any potential legislative solution that would prevent the detrimental consequences outlined in the report.

While we cannot predict what the national energy economy will look like in 10 to 20 years, we do know the importance of reliability and diversity when it comes to energy. Together we can and must ensure that these plants are able to continue their operations for the benefit of individuals and communities throughout Illinois.

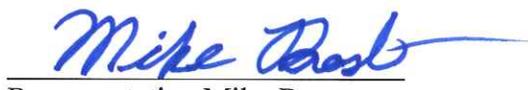
Sincerely,


Representative Adam Kinzinger


Representative Cheri Bustos


Representative Bobby Rush

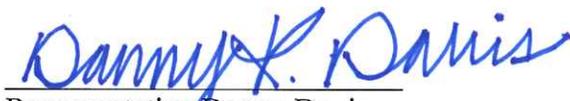

Representative Daniel Lipinski

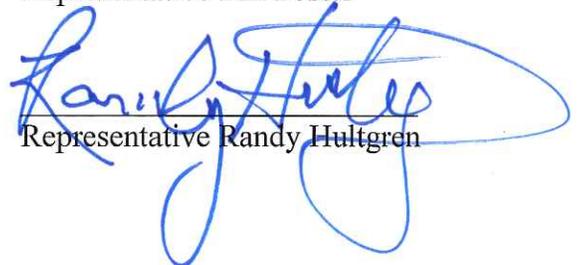

Representative Mike Bost


Representative Rodney Davis


Representative Mike Quigley


Representative Bill Foster


Representative Danny Davis


Representative Randy Hultgren


Representative Aaron Schock


Representative Tammy Duckworth


Representative Bob Dold