



SUPPORT: SB2132 (CASTRO) / HB3624 (WILLIAMS)

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT: SUPPORTING ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES AND WORKERS IN ENERGY TRANSITION

In Illinois and across the country, the transition away from coal power is underway as energy corporations abandon inefficient and expensive coal plants, and governments take steps to reduce climate pollution. Too often, out-of-state energy corporations have made risky investments in aging Illinois power plants and mines, and then closed them with little warning or support to Illinois workers and communities. As Illinois considers urgently needed action on energy policy, our state must develop a robust climate and economic transition plan that helps impacted workers and communities adapt in this energy transition and forge resilient, economic futures. The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition has developed an amendment to the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) to reflect ongoing conversations with stakeholders and enhanced policy proposals to address these needs. CEJA is the only legislation that offers a comprehensive plan to grow a 100% clean energy economy that puts communities, workers, and our environment first.

1. Energy Community Reinvestment Fund

Creates a centralized fund overseen by Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) that directs up to \$210 million annually to community and workforce programs. Funding will come from a Community Reinvestment Fee assessed on power plant operators' air pollution and a 6% Coal Severance Fee on coal extraction.

2. Clean Energy Empowerment Zones

- Designates communities impacted by closing fossil fuel power plants or mines as "Clean Energy Empowerment Zones," and directs up to \$100 million annually to those communities, for up to 5 years to replace lost property taxes, fund infrastructure projects, and spur economic development
- Creates programs within DCEO to support impacted communities that convene local and state stakeholders in developing community transition plans and attracting new business investments

3. Clean Energy Empowerment Tax Credits

Directs up to \$22.5 million annually from the Energy Community Reinvestment Fund to cover income tax credits for businesses that re-hire displaced energy workers in long-term positions at a prevailing wage, and that make new clean energy investments in Clean Energy Empowerment Zones.

4. Support for Illinois Workers and Clean Energy Entrepreneurs

- Directs up to \$9 million annually to help displaced energy workers pursue new employment and retraining opportunities with full-tuition scholarships at Illinois state and community colleges and trade programs
- Directs up to \$25 million annually to support 15 Clean Jobs Workforce Hubs across the state to provide training and wrap-around services to Illinois residents entering the clean energy sector
- Directs up to \$25 million annually to create the Clean Jobs Contractor Incubator Program to support aspiring entrepreneurs and the development of minority-owned businesses in the clean energy sector
- Establishes the Displaced Energy Workers Bill of Rights, which provides displaced workers with educational opportunities (above) and requires employers to manage pensions responsibly and to provide healthcare for workers affected by plant closures for one year



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5. Bold Climate Action with Orderly Planning

- Directs Illinois EPA to develop declining caps on greenhouse gases and other air pollutants from fossil fuel power plants to achieve equitable pollution reductions and decarbonize Illinois' electric sector by 2030. A responsible, predictable timeline for plant retirements will give communities time to plan, and avoid the uncertainty and disruption that comes with plant owners' often-sudden retirement announcements
- Creates a Carbon-Free Capacity Market in Northern Illinois overseen by the Illinois Power Agency to protect Illinois from upcoming orders from FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) that would force Illinoisans to pay \$864 million per year for overpriced and unneeded dirty energy
- Authorizes Community Energy and Climate Plans, directing resources to communities that create plans with local stakeholders to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, and workforce development

6. Equitable Growth to 100% Clean Energy

- Increases the renewable energy budget to grow and sustain a competitive clean energy market in Illinois to meet increased clean energy new build targets (25% by 2025, 46% by 2030, 100% by 2050) offset by savings from capacity market reform
- Expands Illinois Solar for All to ensure disadvantaged and environmental justice communities have access to clean energy and the wealth-building opportunities that come with it
- Creates energy sovereignty incentives for rooftop solar and community solar projects that are 100% low-income subscriber owned
- Establishes a prevailing wage classification for clean energy jobs and incentives for clean energy businesses who meet equity requirements

7. Consumer Savings for Illinois Families

- Expands low-income home heating energy efficiency to save low-income households more annually and increasing gas utility assistance programs. Net gas savings to consumers around \$700 million.
- Establishes a Health and Safety Fund for Low-Income Home Retrofits to address health and safety issues, such as mold, asbestos, and leaks, that prevent them from completing low-income home energy efficiency retrofits.
- Lowers electric bills for Illinois residents by redirecting money from polluting power plants to invest in lower-cost renewable energy, peak demand reduction, and energy efficiency.

