



HR1146

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Reliable, clean, and affordable electricity is
3 vital to Illinois' economic growth, jobs, and the overall
4 interests of its citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois' nuclear power plants provide over half
6 of the State's total electricity generation and are licensed to
7 generate affordable electricity for Illinois families and
8 businesses for decades into the future; and

9 WHEREAS, Nuclear energy was a prime contributor to Illinois
10 having the eighth lowest average price of electricity in the
11 United States in 2013, and the State's low-cost energy
12 resources give it a significant advantage for attracting and
13 retaining businesses of all kinds and provide reliable
14 electricity to Illinois families; and

15 WHEREAS, The premature closure of nuclear power plants
16 could increase prices for families and businesses; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois' nuclear power plants provide over 92% of
18 Illinois' emissions-free and carbon-free electric generation
19 and are the only greenhouse gas (GHG) free source of
20 predictable, non-intermittent, and reliable electric
21 generation; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois' nuclear power plants produce enough
2 electricity to power 4 cities the size of the City of Chicago,
3 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois' nuclear power plants are an enormous
5 economic engine for the State, employing more than 5,300
6 workers across 43 counties in high-paying jobs that average 36%
7 above local wage rates, with a total direct payroll in Illinois
8 of \$550 million a year; and

9 WHEREAS, Every year, the State's nuclear power plants
10 employ an additional 1,300 temporary employees periodically
11 throughout the year, which reflects an additional total annual
12 payroll of over \$200 million; and

13 WHEREAS, The economic activity generated by the 6 Illinois
14 nuclear power plants supports more than 13,000 additional jobs
15 across virtually every sector of the State's economy, resulting
16 in hundreds of millions of dollars in expenditures at thousands
17 of local and State businesses; and

18 WHEREAS, The State's nuclear power plants contribute
19 nearly \$130 million to local property taxes, which are used to
20 fund school districts and other community projects, and these
21 plants also pay over \$26 million in Illinois payroll taxes and

1 \$22 million in payments to the Illinois Emergency Management
2 Agency; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
4 Energy's Energy Information Administration, Illinois'
5 investment in nuclear, wind, and solar clean energy resources
6 makes it the nation's top producer of emissions-free
7 electricity; and

8 WHEREAS, On June 25, 2013, the President of the United
9 States ordered the United States Environmental Protection
10 Agency to propose GHG regulations for existing power plants by
11 no later than June 1, 2014 and to finalize those regulations by
12 no later than June 1, 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, Illinois and all other states will be required to
14 submit compliance plans to meet the new federal requirements by
15 June 1, 2016; and

16 WHEREAS, Nuclear energy has played a substantial role in
17 the achievement of GHG emission reduction goals to date, and
18 continued operation of Illinois nuclear power plants is vital
19 to Illinois' ability to economically meet new federal
20 regulations and provides an essential counterbalance to
21 emissions from carbon-emitting generating plants, thereby
22 allowing the State to maximize its fossil fuel advantage and

1 achieve average GHG emission rate requirements; and

2 WHEREAS, Various industry analysts and consultants,
3 academic analyses and studies, and market publications have
4 concluded that some Illinois nuclear power plants, like others
5 around the country, are at risk of premature shutdown due to a
6 variety of electric transmission and economic factors as well
7 as the failure of competitive wholesale markets and energy
8 policy to recognize nuclear power for its reliability and clean
9 energy attributes; the premature shutdown of one or more of
10 these valuable assets will most likely cause economic, social,
11 reliability, and environmental harm to Illinois families and
12 businesses; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy, grid
14 operators, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
15 commissioners have cautioned that the premature shutdown of
16 nuclear power plants could jeopardize both the nation's
17 electric reliability and the ability to address climate change;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, In November 2013, 4 of the world's preeminent
20 climate and energy scientists, Dr. Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie
21 Institution for Science, Dr. Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts
22 Institute of Technology, Dr. James Hansen of Columbia
23 University, and Dr. Tom Wigley of the National Center for

1 Atmospheric Research, released an open letter calling on world
2 leaders to support nuclear energy, concluding that "in the real
3 world there is no credible path to climate stabilization that
4 does not include a substantial role for nuclear power"; and

5 WHEREAS, Closing even a few nuclear power plants could make
6 achieving State and national carbon reduction goals difficult
7 or impossible; after the January 2012 shutdown of a nuclear
8 power plant in California, the state's carbon dioxide output
9 increased by 35% in the first year, according to the California
10 Air Resources Board, and increased generation costs in the
11 state by about \$369 million, equivalent to a 15% increase in
12 total generation costs, during the 12 months following the
13 January 2012 shutdown, according to a working paper issued by
14 the Energy Institute at Haas; and

15 WHEREAS, Germany embarked upon an energy policy that was
16 designed to eliminate reliance upon nuclear power and, at the
17 same time, reduce GHG emissions; however, with the dramatic
18 reduction of reliance upon nuclear power in Germany, GHG
19 emissions are rising, not falling, while electricity costs have
20 skyrocketed; and

21 WHEREAS, It is of the highest importance that the State of
22 Illinois preserve its existing clean energy resources as a
23 means of complying with federal laws, keeping electricity costs

1 stable and affordable, ensuring grid reliability, and
2 continuing its national leadership in the generation of
3 reliable and clean energy; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, PJM
7 Interconnection, LLC, and the Mid-Continent Independent
8 Systems Operator to expeditiously adopt market rules and
9 policies, including transmission expansion rules and policies,
10 that will ensure the continued operation of the existing fleet
11 of nuclear power plants in Illinois; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Environmental
13 Protection Agency (EPA) to immediately adopt rules that treat
14 low-carbon resources, like nuclear power plants, equally,
15 regardless of age or fuel source; provide flexibility to the
16 State; and require actions to secure the continued operations
17 at Illinois' nuclear power plants as a compliance mechanism to
18 meet any new federal GHG regulations and, further, to adopt
19 rules that allow the State to offset and balance emissions from
20 fossil fuel electric generation with emissions-free nuclear
21 generation; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That we urge the appropriate State agencies to
23 review these impending rules in order to adopt policies to take

1 advantage of this State's leadership in clean energy
2 production, to continue to provide thousands of high-paying
3 direct and indirect jobs across Illinois, to support hundreds
4 of millions of dollars of economic activity for the Illinois
5 economy, to encourage continued investment in these assets, to
6 provide jobs for the building trades and others, and to provide
7 a strong tax base for local communities throughout Illinois;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That in order to take advantage of Illinois'
10 clean energy advantage and to position the State to become a
11 hub of clean energy production for other states, we must
12 further examine existing policies regarding the transmission
13 of electricity to other states; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Commerce Commission to
15 prepare a report examining the State's and grid operators'
16 ability to expand transmissions to allow Illinois to transport
17 clean electricity to other parts of the nation, as well as any
18 legislative impediments, and the impact on residential,
19 commercial, and industrial electric rates from the premature
20 closure of Illinois' nuclear power plants; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Power Agency to prepare
22 a report showing how the premature closure of existing nuclear
23 power plants in Illinois will affect reliability and capacity

1 for the Midwest region; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Environmental
3 Protection Agency to prepare a report showing how the premature
4 closure of existing nuclear power plants in Illinois will
5 affect the societal cost of increased GHG emissions based upon
6 the EPA's published societal cost of GHG; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we urge the Department of Commerce and
8 Economic Opportunity to prepare a report showing how the
9 premature closure of existing nuclear power plants in Illinois
10 will affect jobs and the economic climate in the affected
11 areas; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the findings in those reports to
13 include potential market-based solutions that will ensure that
14 the premature closure of these nuclear power plants does not
15 occur and that the dire consequences to the economy, jobs, and
16 the environment are averted; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we urge the findings from those reports to
18 be presented to the General Assembly and the Governor between
19 November 15, 2014 and adjournment sine die of the 98th General
20 Assembly for consideration and appropriate action; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to Governor Pat Quinn; the Illinois Congressional
3 delegation; Administrator of the United States Environmental
4 Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy; Acting Chairman of the
5 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Cheryl LaFleur;
6 Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, Ernest
7 Moniz; President and Chief Executive Officer of PJM
8 Interconnection, LLC, Terry Boston; and President and Chief
9 Executive Officer of the Mid-Continent Independent Systems
10 Operator, John Bear.