



State of Illinois

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Dear Members of the PJM Board,

We write as Illinois legislators to urge PJM to select a consumer protection focused proposal in the Critical Issues Fast Path – Large Load Additions (CIFP-LLA) process. Illinois ratepayers are already seeing increased costs tied to large new loads, especially data centers, mostly located outside our state. Without action, those costs and related reliability risks will grow substantially.

According to PJM's independent market monitor, the past two capacity auctions saw a \$16.6 billion increase driven by forecasted data center demand. PJM has also received federal approval for \$12 billion in regional transmission upgrades, primarily to serve data centers, costs that will largely fall on other customers, not on the facilities that caused them. The NRDC projects these costs could rise to over \$160 billion within seven years if PJM fails to act.

As PJM considers upcoming forecasts and market rule changes, we urge you to prioritize the interests of existing customers. Data centers must be responsible for meeting their own energy needs and not shift their costs or reliability risks to households and small businesses.

We strongly support the Monitoring Analytics and NRDC proposals, which are the only options that protect consumers while maintaining reliability:

- The Monitoring Analytics proposal requires large new loads to bring dedicated, deliverable generation online alongside their demand. We encourage allowing renewables and storage to fulfill that requirement. PJM has devoted significant effort to resource adequacy tools that correctly measure the value of all resources and should use those tools to enable clean resources to supply data center needs.

- The NRDC proposal safeguards consumers by requiring new large loads to add new generation before receiving guaranteed capacity, ensuring that growth does not outpace supply. It also protects customers from both capacity and energy cost increases by allowing PJM to curtail data centers during grid stress events, preventing the worst spikes in energy prices and preserving system reliability.

Both approaches tie real load to real generation, avoiding speculative forecasts, stranded investments, and unnecessary rate hikes. They preserve market integrity, transparency, and accountability while keeping financial risk with developers, not ratepayers.

We caution against any proposal that penalizes utilities lacking generation ownership. In deregulated states like Illinois, utilities cannot own generation and rely on PJM markets for supply. Assigning them these risks would unfairly burden customers and undermine confidence in regional market structures.

Energy affordability is already at a crisis point. The PJM Board has an obligation to ensure reliability at the lowest reasonable cost. We urge you to approve a proposal that holds large loads accountable for their true costs and protects existing PJM customers from subsidizing speculative growth.

Signed,

Senator Rachel Ventura, District 43

Senator Emil Jones III, District 14

Senator Graciela Guzmán, District 20

Senator Lakesia Collins, District 5

Senator Mark Walker, District 27

Senator Karina Villa, District 25

Senator Christopher Belt, District 57

Senator Laura Ellman, District 21

Senator Mary Edly-Allen, District 31

Senator Laura Fine, District 9

Senator Mike Porfirio, District 11

Senator Mike Simmons, District 7

Representative Nabeela Syed, District 51

Representative Abdelnasser Rashid, District 21

Representative Michelle Mussman, District 56

Representative Mary Beth Canty, District 54

Representative Maura Hirschauer, District 49

Representative Will Guzzardi, District 39

Representative Margaret DeLaRosa, District 42

Representative Laura Faver Dias, District 62

Representative Theresa Mah, District 24

Representative Lindsey LaPointe, District 19

Representative Lilian Jimenez, District 4

Representative Dagmara Avelar, District 85

Representative Nicolle Grasse, District 53

Representative Diane Blair-Sherlock, District
46

Representative Ann M. Williams, District 11

IL House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel,
District 8