



# CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

## Fighting for Illinois Consumers

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### STATEMENT BY CUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID KOLATA ON PASSAGE OF THE CLIMATE & EQUITABLE JOBS ACT

The General Assembly's passage of the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act is a victory for consumers and the environment. This comprehensive clean energy legislation ensures that, as Illinois mounts an urgently needed defense against catastrophic climate change, the state is on a path to achieve an affordable clean energy future and hold utilities more accountable.

We thank Gov. Pritzker, Senate President Harmon and House Speaker Welch for their strong leadership in shepherding this landmark legislation to passage. We thank all legislators who supported the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, but in particular we wish to express gratitude to the following legislators for their commitment to strong clean energy policy: state Rep. Ann Williams and state Sen. Cristina Castro, who were lead sponsors of the Clean Energy Jobs Act; state Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.; state Rep. Robyn Gabel; state Rep. Jay Hoffman; state Rep. Kam Buckner; state Sen. Bill Cunningham; state Sen. Michael Hastings; and state Sen. Sue Rezin.

In the face of a climate emergency that threatens not only our health, but also billions of dollars in higher energy bills, Illinois was obligated to act—and the state responded with both a pro-consumer approach to achieving 100 percent clean energy, as well as a nation-leading commitment to invest in equity, generate jobs and fuel the economy. Without this blueprint, Illinois consumers were destined to pay higher electricity bills as climate change continued unchecked and the costs of long-term capacity reserves in energy markets escalated. Among the many pro-consumer provisions, this legislation:

- expands energy efficiency to historic levels;
- replaces the "formula rate" system that led to unfair rate hikes for Ameren and ComEd electric customers;
- creates an independent ethics monitor at the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to rein in big utilities;
- supports low-cost renewable energy so solar power and clean energy jobs can once again boom in Illinois.

This is the culmination of more than three years of hard work among thousands of state residents who joined with consumer, environmental, and faith-based organizations to shape this legislation as part of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition.

CUB's job now is to help solidify the victory for consumers, by rolling up our sleeves and working with all parties—legislators, regulators, utilities and consumer groups—to implement this bill correctly and reap the full potential of its promising outlook for consumers.

*CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, it has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping block rate hikes, secure refunds and fight for clean, low-cost energy. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline, **1-800-669-5556**, or visit its website, [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).*

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