



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
COUNCIL CHAMBER
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL
TELEPHONE: 312-744-6800

November 10, 2010

Dear Alderman:

We are writing to clear up any confusion that may have been caused by a letter sent last week from our friends at **Local 134 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)** regarding the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance. Contrary to the concerns expressed by Local 134, **the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance will protect existing jobs and, in fact, create new jobs** while protecting the health and well-being of all Chicagoans.

Cleaning up the Fisk and Crawford power plants is both an economic and health imperative. According to a recent study, the Fisk and Crawford plants create \$127 million annually in health care costs—costs that ultimately are borne by the taxpayers. The plants have been running since the turn of the last century and have not installed the type of modern pollution controls that are required of new power plants.

Updating the plants to modern standards would not only protect public health and the environment, but create jobs for Chicago workers. The owner of Fisk and Crawford--Midwest Generation--could meet the requirements of the ordinance by installing the best available pollution control technology or repowering the Fisk and Crawford plants with natural gas. Undertaking both measures would create jobs.

One need look no further than downstate Illinois where Ameren, Illinois, an electric utility, recently invested \$1 billion to reduce pollution from several coal plants it operates, including repowering its Grand Tower coal plant with natural gas. **Ameren's investment created hundreds of permanent and contract jobs, and the company is still running at a profit.** Ameren's experience is replicated by similar utility projects across the nation. Midwest Generation's assertion that this kind of investment isn't possible is belied by the experience of those other utilities.

To further ensure that workers are protected, we will amend the Clean Power Ordinance so that it requires Midwest Generation to retain or retrain any employee whose job may be affected by compliance with the ordinance. **In other words, the ordinance will protect workers by requiring Midwest Generation to retain and retrain workers whose jobs may change when the plants are cleaned up.**

Though the plants currently provide some stability to the local electrical grid, Com Ed has testified before the ICC that it plans to build new transmission lines by 2011. Once these new lines are in place, Fisk and Crawford will no longer be needed to keep the electrical grid stable.


The ordinance requires Fisk and Crawford to clean up by 2013-2014. The new transmission lines will make it possible for Midwest Generation to update or repower its plants without interrupting local the power supply.

Fisk and Crawford are two of the largest single sources of particulate matter and global warming pollution in our city. The plants' owners have resisted calls to reduce pollution for years, even though authorities have found that pollution from these plants is costing our residents over \$127 million dollars in health care costs each year.

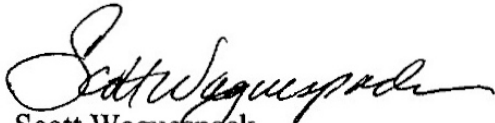
Midwest Generation response to the Clean Power Ordinance is an all too familiar refrain "It's too expensive, it will ruin our business, it will kill jobs." Automakers said the same thing about seat belts. Manufacturers said the same thing about reducing acid rain and protecting the ozone layer. Every time government steps in to protect the public health and welfare, business sounds the alarm, and yet we have safer cars, a cleaner environment and a healthier public, all while growing our economy.

It's up to us in the City Council to look at the facts, and make the right decision for Chicago's future. We hope you will join us, 15 other aldermanic co-sponsors and nearly 50 labor, business, health and environmental organizations in supporting the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance.

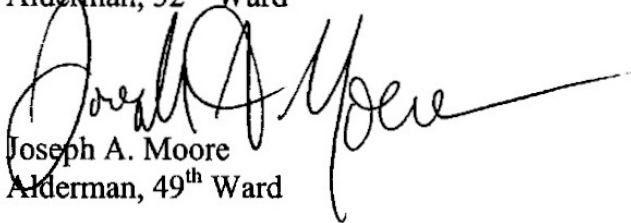
Sincerely,



Ricardo Munoz
Alderman, 22nd Ward



Scott Waguespack
Alderman, 32nd Ward



Joseph A. Moore
Alderman, 49th Ward