



November 14, 2010

Alderman
Chicago City Council

Dear Alderman

We represent Doctors Council SEIU, doctors who work in the Cook County public clinics and hospitals. Every day, we see the consequences of the poor air quality in Chicago. We see the asthmatic children, the elderly with respiratory and cardiovascular problems, and the increased morbidity from lung cancer, heart attacks, acute and chronic bronchitis, and other respiratory illnesses. Study after study has shown the relationship between these adverse health effects and the emissions coming from coal plants which are located in some of the most densely populated areas in the country.

We are writing to ask for your support and co-sponsorship of the Clean Power Ordinance now before the City Council. The ordinance would require the two very old coal-fired power plants located in the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods to reduce their emissions of soot and carbon dioxide.

Those who are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of particulate matter are also the most economically disadvantaged and the least able to pay for required medical care. The Cook County Health and Hospital System, as well as the other safety net hospitals and clinics, see these patients every day. Many of our fellow physicians, as well as medical students and other health professionals are joining together now to urge your support. We cannot afford to wait any longer to curb the negative effects of these facilities. We need to act now to save lives.

We urge you to join the growing number of aldermen who are co-sponsoring the Clean Power Ordinance. Your leadership can help make Chicago a safer place in which to live, work and raise a family; one that is truly leading the way as a green city.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Fred Martin, M.D.

Fred Martin, MD
Vice President, Doctors Council SEIU

Handwritten signature of Ravi P. Shah, MD.

Ravi P. Shah, MD
ACHN Delegate, Doctors Council SEIU

