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MIKE QUIGLEY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
ORGANIZATION, AND PROCUREMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

February 14, 2011

Honorable Joe Moore
Alderman, 49th Ward
City of Chicago

Dear Ald. Moore:

I am writing in support of the proposed Chicago Clean Power Ordinance.

For too long, the citizens of Chicago have been subjected to unhealthy levels of emissions from outdated coal-fired generating facilities such as the Crawford and Fisk plants.

As studies have shown, the health costs associated with these plants have taken a toll on our City, particularly in the economically challenged neighborhoods near these facilities.

According to a 2001 study by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, emissions from Fisk and Crawford contributed annually to a myriad of serious health problems, including an increase in asthma attacks and emergency room visits.

The reduction in emissions proposed by the ordinance would not only improve the health and well-being of Chicago's citizens, it would also be a step in the much-needed reduction of green house gases. The proposed limits on CO2 emission in the ordinance would eliminate annually about 2.5 million metric tons of CO2 from the environment—the equivalent of removing 625,000 cars from the road.

This ordinance also has the added benefit of forcing Americans to confront its reliance on carbon fuel sources. As Al Gore wrote in 2005, “it is now clear that we face a deepening global climate crisis that requires us to act boldly, quickly and wisely.”

Prudent regulations, such as the Chicago Clean Power Ordinance, are the kind of actions we need to take to safeguard our health and our environment.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress