

Statement of Representative Schakowsky
February 11, 2011

Statement Supporting Chicago Power Ordinance

I am writing to express my support for the Chicago Power Ordinance. I support the Ordinance because every American has the right to breathe clean air. Unfortunately for many residents of Chicago, a loophole in the Clean Air Act prevents them from enjoying that right because the Fisk and Crawford generating plants are so old that they are excluded from having to adhere to the Clean Air Act. The consequences of this loophole are tragic. Each year, these plants spew toxic chemicals into the air that are responsible for over 40 premature deaths and thousands of asthma attacks and respiratory illnesses in Chicago every year.

I strongly support the Obama Administration's effort to reduce Green House Gas emissions by strengthening standards under the Clean Air Act. While this will make a profound difference in the health of Americans all over the country, it will not change the loophole that protects Fisk and Crawford from regulation. The Chicago Power Ordinance would require both plants to reduce their emissions of fine particulate matter and carbon dioxide, providing tremendous benefits for the residents of Chicago. I stand with the supporters of this Ordinance and urge its adoption.