ACTION ALERT – UPDATE ON HR 1146

Still time to take critically important action

HR1146, the Nuclear Plant Closure Resolution sponsored by House Speaker Michael Madigan and Exelon Corporation passed out of the Environment "Committee" unanimously on Wednesday, May 28th. Before the vote, It is reported that Speaker Madigan, who sponsored the Resolution and who was to testify in its behalf, used his executive privilege as House Speaker to "replace" six members of the Committee temporarily, and substitute six hand-selected alternates. The six who were dismissed - - Reps. Sente, Gabel, Harris, Jakobsson, Nekritz, and Halbrook -- were likely to vote "no" or at least speak against HR1146.

Only one of the two reps NEIS sent to testify against HR1146 were allowed to speak (only one per organization). Other enviros who would have spoken against it and who were coming from another Committee meeting were not allowed into the Env. Comm. hearing room. So, Madigan had 5-7 people speak in favor, with NEIS being the lone dissenting comment. This is the state of governance in Illinois.

We have an old political saying in Chicago -- "Don't get angry. Get EVEN!" It's time to honor that political wisdom. **If you have not yet done ALL THREE of the recommended actions in the message below, it's time to do so.** Merely contacting your own legislator is not enough. We need to begin to let Speaker Madigan know "there will be (political) blood" from now on concerning his actions supporting Exelon's nuclear ambitions and destroying renewable energy. **Please make those calls first thing today.** Unless of course you're perfectly OK with what went down today in the Committee. We'd be interested in the response you get from his office, and the Democratic funding organizations. Thanks in advance

--Dave Kraft, NEIS--

EMERGENCY ALERT! IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED!

Exelon, Mike Madigan Gut Renewables, Suggest “Nukes Forever” for Illinois

Your Action Still Needed ! Floor Vote Expected Thur-Fri. Pass on to Others for Action!

Greetings All –

In cooperation with Exelon Corporation, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan has introduced a [RESOLUTION, HR 1146, NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CLOSURES](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp) which if passed would essentially “nuke” renewable energy in Illinois, and guarantee that nuclear and coal would be the mainstay of Illinois electricity production for the foreseeable future. We attach a highlighted version of the Resolution with this Alert.

The Resolution is actually a piece of a national program Exelon is orchestrating (with the help of folks like ALEC and others) to keep old nuclear plants which have been losing money for years in
operation. Last week in the Legislature, Madigan and Exelon conspired on an agreement to kill the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard fix, in exchange for Exelon keeping running for the next year five nuclear reactors it said were unprofitable, and was threatening to close. This week Exelon and Madigan are attempting to unleash every aspect of State government to support the continuation of running nuclear reactors, potentially awarding them “clean energy credits” like solar and wind would get, and use the upcoming EPA air standard requirements as a way to use nukes to offset the pollution from coal plants, many of which face shutdown from the tireless work of environmental groups around the state, allowing them to continue operating.

This Resolution is not just a pro-nuke resolution. It is an overt effort to destroy renewable energy statewide, a way to keep dirty coal plants running, and a way to continue and make permanent the outdated system of “centralized baseload power”, in spite of the fact that the Legislature already granted ComEd 10 years of rate increases to finish a “smart grid” which was supposed to replace the outdated baseload utility model, and be more renewables friendly.

WHAT YOU MUST DO ASAP:

This is the most serious threat to renewable energy we’ve ever seen coming from the State Legislature. If Michael Madigan wants to “nuke” renewables, then we must have the guts and determination to go “kamikaze” on Mike Madigan and Exelon. This Resolution is the Armageddon of energy for Illinois. Here’s what we ask, beg, implore each and every one of you to do:

1.) CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS, (http://www.illinois.gov/Government/Pages/LegislativeBranch.aspx) telling them to oppose HR1146, no ands ifs or buts. No compromises. Just VOTE NO.

2.) Contact Speaker Michael Madigan’s Office, (mapes@hds.ilga.gov ; jmiller@hds.ilga.gov ; (217) 782-5350; (773) 581-8000), with two messages: 1.) KILL HR1146, and 2.) if the Resolution passes, you will be withholding all financial and volunteer support for any and all Democratic candidates for local, state, and federal office in the next election in November.

3.) “Kamikaze” Mike: this one might not be the most important, but it will be the most fun. Contact any of the Democratic fundraising and volunteer organizations you know, and tell THEM that you will not be providing support to the party’s candidates this Fall, if Michael Madigan’s Resolution is not killed. And don’t just say it; mean it and do it!

People, please get this – polite people get polluted! We are up against the wall. Exelon and Madigan are prepared to turn back the clock 40 years on our State’s energy future. You’ve got to overcome any sense of “embarrassment” or even party loyalty and directly confront this threat. These people don’t care about you or your kids. You’re going to have to be tough and brave enough to confront them head on, and that might mean doing some unfamiliar and uncomfortable things. The very future of renewable energy in Illinois, and the 90,000 direct and indirect jobs it provides, is at stake with this vote. Whose side will you be on?

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