

# STATEMENT

## **Eric Sorenson Is A Climate Activist Who Pushes Radical Climate Policies That Will Kill Jobs In Illinois, Send Jobs To China And Increase Already Skyrocketing Energy Costs.**

### *Verification*

#### **In 2016, Sorensen Wrote A Letter To Then President-Elect Donald Trump That Critiqued Republicans For Opposing Regulation On Fossil Fuels, And He Claimed That He Wanted To Be A Conduit For President Trump Regarding Climate Issues**

##### **In 2016, Sorensen Wrote A Letter To Then President-Elect Donald Trump.**

“Congratulations on being elected the 45th president of the United States! In addition to setting the tone for domestic and international relations, you have a plethora of obligations to our country over the next four years.” (Eric Sorensen, “The Eric Factor: My Letter To Our President-Elect,” [WQAD 8](#), 11/11/16)

##### **The Letter Was About Climate Change And Critiqued Republicans For Opposing**

**Regulation On Fossil Fuels.** “I’d like to talk to you about the subject of climate change (or global warming). For years, when it comes to climate change the Republican Party has favored business and economic interests over regulation on fossil fuels and incentive for cleaner energy. Four years ago, you went further than most, questioning whether global warming even exists!” (Eric Sorensen, “The Eric Factor: My Letter To Our President-Elect,” [WQAD 8](#), 11/11/16)

**Sorensen Claimed That If We Aren’t “Proactive And Progressive As A Nation,” There Will Be Real, Human Perils.** “It concerns me that some in Washington may be telling you that this is a problem for the next president. But the success of your administration and your legacy could be determined by how you receive information from climate scientists and what you do about it. We already have a significant economic impACT and the forecast is for more significant impACT in future years. If we aren’t proactive and progressive as a nation, I fear we will get to a point where there will be real, human perils. I hate to be pessimistic, but I believe this will be too late for the next president.” (Eric Sorensen, “The Eric Factor: My Letter To Our President-Elect,” [WQAD 8](#), 11/11/16)

**Sorensen Claimed He Wanted To Be A Conduit For President Trump Regarding Climate Issues.** “I am hopeful you will see the importance of climate change in your administration. I, along with many in the broadcast meteorology field, would like to help show you the way forward. I would love to be the conduit between the decisions you make and the public who craves progress. I’m willing to work on it together because I believe it will make us safer, more prosperous, and healthier as a nation.” (Eric Sorensen, “The Eric Factor: My Letter To Our President-Elect,” [WQAD 8](#), 11/11/16)

#### **Sorensen Supported Re-Entering The Paris Climate Agreement**

**Sorensen Supported Re-Entering The Paris Climate Agreement.** “Today is the day the United States re-enters the #ParisAgreement. Earlier this week, I was able to ask the Biden Administration's Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs some questions on where we are now and why it's important to come back to the table. Many thanks to Climate Central for putting the conversation together. Their mission is to give Meteorologists the tools and accurate information so we can tell the important climate stories.” (Eric Sorensen, [Facebook](#), 2/19/21)



(Eric Sorensen, [Facebook](#), 2/19/21)

## **The Paris Climate Agreement Could Cost The U.S. Economy \$3 Trillion And 6.5 Million Jobs While Also Driving Up Electricity Costs For Americans**

**According To A 2017 Analysis By NERA Economic Consulting, Meeting The Standards Set By The Paris Climate Accord Could Cost The U.S. Economy \$3 Trillion And 6.5 Million Industrial Sector Jobs By 2040.** “Meeting the commitments President Obama made as part of the Paris climate accord could cost the U.S. economy \$3 trillion and 6.5 million industrial sector jobs by 2040, according to a comprehensive new study prepared by NERA Economic Consulting. The study was commissioned by the American Council for Capital Formation with support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for 21st Century Energy. The report, ‘ImpACTs of Greenhouse Gas Regulations on the Industrial Sector,’ explores several potential scenarios under which the United States could meet the Obama administration’s international emissions pledge as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Existing regulations fall well short of achieving former-President Obama’s goal of a 26 percent to 28 percent reduction in net emissions from the 2005 level by 2025, and an 80 percent reduction by 2040.” (Global Energy Institute, “New Report Examines Costs To U.S. Industrial Sector Of Obama’s Paris Pledge,” [Press Release](#), 3/16/17)

**According To A 2016 Analysis By The Heritage Foundation, Implementing The Paris Climate Accord Could Result In A Total Income Loss Of More Than \$20,000 For A Family Of Four And Could Increase Household Electricity Expenditures By As Much As 20 Percent.** “Policies adapted from domestic regulations emphasized in the Paris agreement will affect a variety of aspects of the American economy. As a result of the plan, one can expect that by 2035, there will be: An overall average shortfall of nearly 400,000 jobs; An average manufacturing shortfall of over 200,000 jobs; A total income loss of more than \$20,000 for a family of four; An aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) loss of over \$2.5 trillion; and Increases in household electricity expenditures between 13 percent and 20 percent.” (Kevin Dayaratna, Nicolas Loris And David Kreutzer, “Consequences Of Paris Protocol: Devastating Economic Costs, Essentially Zero Environmental Benefits,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 4/13/16)

## **Sorensen Voted Against Congressional Disapproval Of A Rule That Allows Domestically Assembled Electric Vehicle Chargers To Temporarily Avoid A Requirement That FHWA Projects Be Produced In The US**

**On January 11, 2024, Sorensen Voted Against Congressional Disapproval Of A “Rule That Temporarily Waives, For Electric Vehicle Chargers Assembled In The U.S., A Requirement That Steel, Iron, Manufactured Products And Construction Materials**

**Used In FHWA Projects Be Produced In The U.S.”** “Passage of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of a February 2023 Federal Highway Administration Rule that temporarily waives, for electric vehicle chargers assembled in the U.S., a requirement that steel, iron, manufactured products and construction materials used in FHWA projects be produced in the U.S. The rule went into effect in March 2023 and phases out coverage under the waiver for chargers manufactured after June 2024 for which the cost of components manufactured in the U.S. is not more than 55 percent of the cost of all components. Under the provisions of the joint resolution, the rule would have no force or effect.” (S. J. Res. 38, [Roll Call #8](#); Passed 209-198; R 207-2; D 2-196; 1/11/24, Sorensen Voted Nay; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 2/26/24)

- **On January 24, 2024, President Biden Vetoed The Measure “That Would Have Blocked A White House Waiver That Allows Some Foreign-Made Content In Federally Funded Chargers For Electric Vehicles.”** “U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday vetoed legislation aimed at reversing his administration's waiver of "Buy America" requirements for government-funded electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, according to a senior U.S. official.” (Matthew Daly, “Biden Vetoes GOP Measure That Aimed To Block White House Policy On Foreign Content In EV Chargers,” [Associated Press](#), 1/24/24)
- **“Supporters Said The Congressional Measure Would Keep China Out Of The Supply Chain For EV Chargers”** “The GOP resolution also would “undermine the hundreds of millions of dollars that the private sector has already invested in domestic EV charging manufacturing, and chill further domestic investment in this critical market,” the White House said. Supporters said the congressional measure would keep China out of the supply chain for EV chargers, a politically potent idea that appeals to lawmakers in both parties. “If we’re going to spend \$5 billion of taxpayer money to build electric vehicle charging stations for the United States, it should be made by Americans in America using American products,” said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, who introduced the resolution last year.” (Matthew Daly, “Biden Vetoes GOP Measure That Aimed To Block White House Policy On Foreign Content In EV Chargers,” [Associated Press](#), 1/24/24)
- **“The White House Said The GOP Plan Would Actually Block Made-In-America Requirements, Since It Would Revert U.S. Policy To A 1980s Rule That Allows Foreign Content In U.S. Manufacturing.”** “President Joe Biden on Wednesday vetoed a Republican measure that would have blocked a White House waiver that allows some foreign-made content in federally funded chargers for electric vehicles. The White House said the GOP plan would actually block made-in-America requirements, since it would revert U.S. policy to a 1980s rule that allows foreign content in U.S. manufacturing. The GOP bill “would eliminate the domestic manufacturing requirement for electric vehicle chargers, thereby harming domestic manufacturing and American jobs,” Biden said in a veto statement.” (Matthew Daly, “Biden Vetoes GOP Measure That Aimed To Block White House Policy On Foreign Content In EV Chargers,” [Associated Press](#), 1/24/24)

### **Sorensen Voted Against Reinstating Tariffs On Solar Panels Using Components Manufactured In China**

#### **On May 3, 2023, Sorensen Voted Against Reinstating Tariffs On Solar Panels Assembled In South Asian Countries Using Components Manufactured In China.**

“Passage of the joint resolution that would provide for congressional disapproval of the September 2022 Commerce Department rule that provided for the suspension of duties for certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and modules, or solar panels, assembled in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand or Vietnam using parts and components manufactured in China. The rule took effect on Nov. 15, 2022. Under the provisions of the joint resolution, the Commerce Department rule would have no force or effect.” (H.J. Res. 39, [Roll Call #202](#), Passed 221-202; R 209-8, D 12-194, Sorensen Voted Nay, 4/28/23; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed: 5/5/23)

- **The Reinstated Tariff Would Be Reinstated On “Solar Panels From Chinese Companies In Violation Of Trade Rules.”** “The Senate voted on Wednesday to reinstate tariffs on solar panels from Chinese companies in Southeast Asia that had been found to be coming into the United States in violation of trade rules. The measure, which passed by a vote of

56 to 41, had already been approved by the House. It sets up a showdown with the Biden administration, which had temporarily halted the tariffs to try to ensure that the country had an adequate supply of solar panels in the fight against climate change.” (Ana Swanson, “Congress Clashes With Biden Over Tariffs On Illegal Chinese Solar Panels,” [New York Times](#), 5/3/3)

- **“Biden’s Decision To Not Impose The Tariffs On The Chinese Solar Makers Violated U.S. Trade Rules And Failed To Defend American Workers.”** “But the measure, which several key Democrats supported, was a notable rebuke of the Biden administration’s actions. Critics have said that Mr. Biden’s decision not to impose the tariffs on the Chinese solar makers violated U.S. trade rules and failed to defend American workers.” (Ana Swanson, “Congress Clashes With Biden Over Tariffs On Illegal Chinese Solar Panels,” [New York Times](#), 5/3/3)
- **Domestic Solar Panel Producers “Cannot Compete With The Cheap [Solar Panels] Made Overseas.”** “The U.S. Senate on Wednesday voted to repeal President Joe Biden’s suspension of tariffs on solar panels from four Southeast Asian nations, a measure aimed at supporting the small domestic manufacturing industry. Biden has vowed to veto the legislation, which passed the House of Representatives last week. It is not expected to have enough support to override a presidential veto. The United States has been trying to strike a tricky balance between supporting the creation of a domestic solar supply chain while keeping cheap imports flowing to projects needed to move the U.S. away from its reliance on fossil fuels. Biden, a Democrat, waived tariffs on solar imports from Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam for two years last June after solar project developers said they would increase their costs and freeze development. Panels from the four nations, which host manufacturing facilities owned by Chinese companies, account for about 80% of U.S. supplies. Domestic producers say they cannot compete with the cheap products made overseas.” (Nichola Groom And Moira Warburton, “US Senate Repeals Solar Panel Tariff Suspension, Biden Expected To Veto,” [Reuters](#), 5/4/23)

**On May 23, 2023, Sorensen Voted Against Overriding Biden’s Veto Of Reinstating Tariffs On Solar Panels Assembled In South Asia With Chinese Manufactured Components.** (H. J. Res. 39, [Roll Call #233](#), Failed 214-205; R 206-8, D 8-197, 5/24/23, Sorensen Voted Nay, 5/24/23)

- **In May 2023, The House Unsuccessfully Attempted To Override President Biden’s Veto On A Resolution To Restore Solar Panels Imported From Southeast Asian Countries.** “The House on Wednesday failed to override President Joe Biden’s veto of a measure related to solar panel import tariffs. A successful veto override would have required a two-thirds vote in the House and the Senate – a high threshold that was not expected to be reached. The resolution, which Biden vetoed in May, would restore tariffs on solar panel imports from several Southeast Asian countries by disapproving a Commerce Department rule.” (Clare Foran, “House Fails To Override Biden Veto On Solar Panel Tariff Measure,” [CNN](#), 3/24/23)

**Sorensen Voted Against H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act Which Would Promote Domestic Energy Production**

**On March 30, 2023, Sorensen Voted Against H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act.**

“Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require a number of actions to boost the domestic production of fossil fuels and critical minerals, accelerate the construction of natural gas pipelines and other energy infrastructure, and reverse or repeal certain recent policies related to energy and climate change. Among provisions to boost oil and gas leasing and production, the bill would require the Interior Department to resume quarterly oil and gas lease sales on federal lands; complete certain proposed sales on the Outer Continental Shelf; and implement at least two lease sales per year in each of the Gulf of Mexico and the Alaska regions of the Shelf. It would roll back increased fees and royalties for onshore and offshore oil and gas development and production established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package (PL 117-69). It would adjust revenue sharing requirements for onshore and offshore production to generally decrease federal shares and increase state shares, particularly for coastal states. It would also require annual geothermal lease sales; terminate a moratorium on new coal leasing; and provide for final approval of previously authorized coal leases. It would prohibit the

president from declaring a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing and from taking any action that would delay new leases, sales and drill permits for oil and gas, coal or mineral exploration. It would remove restrictions on the import and export of liquified natural gas and prohibit the Chinese Communist Party or a person acting on its behalf from acquiring any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas. Among provisions to streamline the permitting process under the National Environmental Policy Act, the bill would set deadlines for the completion of NEPA environmental reviews and adjust thresholds for levels of review; limit the scope of reviews to ‘reasonably foreseeable’ effects and codify 2020 regulations removing requirements to consider climate change impacts in the review process; and direct agencies to use previously completed reviews to satisfy NEPA requirements for substantially similar proposed actions. For oil and gas projects, it would limit the scope of environmental reviews to areas within or immediately adjacent to affected plots and prohibit the consideration of downstream, indirect effects of oil and gas consumption. To expedite certain energy production and infrastructure projects, it would establish procedures and a 120-day expedited deadline for federal agencies to review applications for cross-border oil and natural gas pipelines; and expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s role as the lead agency for natural gas pipeline permitting. To address critical mineral supply, the bill would require the Energy Department to conduct ongoing assessments of and develop strategies to strengthen domestic supply chains for critical energy resources, including through increased mining and processing and permit the EPA to temporarily waive certain pollution regulation requirements for processing and refining projects at critical energy resource facilities to address supply chain concerns. It would make coal and critical mineral mining projects eligible for certain expedited infrastructure permitting processes; provide for appointment of a lead agency to coordinate the permitting process for mineral exploration; and limit the withdrawal of federal lands and waters from mineral leasing. The bill would also repeal certain climate-related programs established by the 2022 budget reconciliation package, including the \$27 billion "Greenhouse Gas Reduction" fund to support low- and zero-carbon projects, a program imposing fees on methane emissions from oil and gas drilling sites on federal lands, and energy rebate programs to incentivize energy-efficient homes and buildings.” (H.R. 1, [Roll Call #182](#), Passed 225-204; R 221-1, D 4-203, 3/30/23, Sorensen Voted Nay; [CO Summary](#), Accessed: 3/30/23)

- **The Lower Energy Costs Act Would “Sharply Increase Domestic [Energy] Production,” “Ease Permitting,” And “Boost Production Of Critical Minerals.”** “The House on Thursday approved a sprawling energy package that seeks to undo virtually all of President Biden's agenda to address climate change, with four Democrats joining Republicans in voting for passage. The massive GOP bill up would sharply increase domestic production of oil, natural gas and coal, and ease permitting restrictions that delay pipelines, refineries and other projects. It also would boost production of critical minerals such as lithium, nickel and cobalt that are used in products such as electric vehicles, computers and cellphones.” (“House Passes Sprawling GOP Energy Bill Aimed At Reversing Biden Climate Policies,” [CBS News](#), 3/30/23)
- **The Lower Energy Costs Act Would Rein “In Biden’s Disastrous Energy Policies That Are Driving Inflation, Keeping Gas Prices High And Wages Under Water, And Adding To The Nation’s Destabilizing Debt.”** “There is no better example of the success of that strategy than the media’s failure to cover House Republicans’ first major legislative achievement: HR 1, ‘The Lower Energy Costs Act,’ which passed the House 225-204 with four Democrats voting with the GOP. The bill is aimed at reining in Biden’s disastrous energy policies that are driving inflation, keeping gas prices high and wages under water, and adding to the nation’s destabilizing debt.” (David Winston, “House Republicans’ Energy Bill Deserves A Second Look,” [Roll Call](#), 4/5/23)
  - **According To The Heritage Foundation, The Lower Energy Costs Act Would Reduce Household Energy Costs By \$795 Per Year.** “Using current economic data as a reference, the policies in H.R. 1 are projected to: Lower energy costs by \$795 per household per year. Increase oil production by 2.03 million barrels per day. Increase natural gas production by 10.3 billion cubic feet per day. Increase wage and salary income for the median worker by \$564 per year. Increase employment by 667,000 jobs. Increase gross domestic product (GDP)

by \$379 billion per year. Increase household income by \$2,890 per household per year.” (Parker Sheppard, Richard Stern And Kevin Dayaratna, “Policies In The Lower Energy Costs Act Will Lower Energy Costs And Increase GDP,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 3/20/23)

- **According To Americans For Tax Reform, The Lower Energy Costs Act Would “Lower Energy Costs” And Reduce “Costs That Consumers Pay At The Pump.** “The Lower Energy Costs Act, introduced by Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), is a holistic package of policies that House Republicans see as key to America’s energy future. The package consists of more than twenty pieces of legislation that will increase domestic energy production, reduce regulatory burdens, and lower energy costs. (...) H.R. 1 would also lower the costs that consumers pay at the pump by streamlining energy permitting and increasing lease sales. The bill requires that the Secretary of the Interior “shall immediately resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act” and ensures that a minimum of four onshore oil and gas lease sales per producing state and two offshore lease sales occur each fiscal year. Several roadblocks to the oil and gas permitting process would be eliminated under the bill’s permitting reform provisions, allowing companies to more easily boost production in order to lower market energy prices.” (Rowan Saydlowski, “KEY VOTE: Vote “YES” On H.R. 1, The Lower Energy Costs Act,” [Americans For Tax Reform](#), 3/28/23)

### **Sorensen Voted Against Requiring The EPA To Submit Reports On The Impacts Of Regulations On Domestic Energy Independence**

**On March 29, 2023, Sorensen Voted Against An Amendment That Would Require The EPA To Report How Its Regulations Have Impacted Energy Independence.** “Jackson, R-Texas, amendment no. 7 that would require the EPA, in consultation with the Energy Department and within 120 days of enactment, to submit a report to Congress on EPA regulations during the 15-year period prior to enactment that reduced energy independence and security, increased regulatory burdens or decreased energy output for energy producers, or increased energy costs for consumers in the United States.” (H. Amdt No. 7 to H.R. 1, [Roll Call #169](#), Passed 245-189; R 224-0, D 21-189, 3/29/23, Sorensen Voted Nay; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed: 4/12/23)

### **Increases In Energy Production Can Cause Energy Costs To Fall**

**Oil Prices Are Affected By Supply And Demand And If Supply Is Increased With Demand Remaining The Same Prices In Oil Should Fall.** “Basic supply and demand theory states that the more of a product is produced, the more cheaply it should sell, all things being equal. It’s a symbiotic dance. The reason more was produced in the first place is because it became more economically efficient (or no less economically efficient) to do so. For example, if a well stimulation technique was invented that could double an oil field’s output for only a small incremental cost, with demand staying static, prices should fall.” (Greg Mcfarlane, “Oil Price Analysis: The Impact Of Supply And Demand,” [Investopedia](#), 2/24/22)

**Increased Oil Supply Can Lower Energy Prices.** “‘Opec+ tailors supply and demand to balance the market,’ says Kate Dourian, of the Energy Institute. ‘It keeps prices high by lowering supplies when the demand for oil slumps.’ The organisation can also lower prices by putting more oil into the market.” (“Opec: What Is It And What Is Happening To Oil Prices?,” [BBC](#), 6/5/23)

**Energy Companies Pass Along Increased Production Costs To Consumers.** “The chart below illustrates that crude oil consistently accounts for the largest portion of consumer gasoline prices, while the refining sector margins are small and shrinking. These skinny refiner margins mean there is little ability for refiners to absorb crude oil price increases—and crude oil prices are now at the highest since 2014; they must be passed along to consumers as higher gasoline prices. Spiking natural gas prices—the highest in more than a decade—are similarly driving up the cost of feedstocks for petrochemicals and the cost of fuel for both refiners and petrochemical manufacturers.” (Susan Grissom, “Energy Market Impacts On Fuel And Petrochemical Prices,” [AFPM](#), 10/18/21)

**Higher Energy Production Costs Ultimately Are Passed Along To Consumers.** “The report, entitled ‘Energy, Jobs & the Economy: Powering America’s Future,’ and released today by Consumer

Energy Alliance (CEA), finds that blockages of American energy development could cost the U.S. economy more than 500,000 jobs, and rising energy prices will cost the transportation sector \$51 billion more in 2011 as compared to just one year ago. Other industries, from agriculture to manufacturing, will also continue to suffer from higher operating costs in the absence of additional domestic energy production. Most importantly, the report shows how many of these costs will ultimately be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices for everyday goods and services. CEA unveiled the findings of the new report during a media call this morning.” (Consumer Energy Alliance, [“CEA Report: America Needs More Domestic Energy Supplies,”](#) 6/29/11)

## **Sorensen Championed The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act**

**VIDEO: During An April 2022 Democratic Forum, Sorensen Cited CEJA In His Answer To How Green Jobs Could Be Created Equitably.** “We need to make sure that are kids are connecting to these trade programs because that means that they are going to be able to have and partake in the society as we build into this green future. And also, I’d like to mention the Clean and Equitable Jobs Act, CEJA, here in the state of Illinois. To be able to say that climate change is an equity issue – we need to make sure that everyone is connected to the solutions of climate change.” (17<sup>th</sup> Congressional Democratic Candidate Virtual Forum, [Clipped](#), 4/27/22) 0:59 – 1:25

## **SB 2408 Puts Illinois On A Path To Achieve Carbon-Free Power By 2045, Shutting All Fossil Fuel Plants, And 100 Percent Clean Energy By 2050**

**SB 2408 Puts Illinois On A Path To Achieve Carbon-Free Power By 2045 And 100 Percent Clean Energy By 2050.** “There’s a lot for an environmentalist – or anyone suffering from terror of the climate apocalypse – to love about this bill. SB 2408 makes Illinois the first coal-producing state – and the first Midwestern state – to commit to a carbon-free future, putting the state on a path to achieve carbon-free power by 2045 and 100 percent clean energy by 2050. The bill shuts down all the state’s fossil fuel plants by 2045.” (Liza Featherstone, “Illinois Just Won A Big Green Jobs Victory,” [Jacobin Magazine](#), 9/21/22)

**SB 2408 Shuts Down All The Fossil Fuel Plants In Illinois By 2045.** “There’s a lot for an environmentalist – or anyone suffering from terror of the climate apocalypse – to love about this bill. SB 2408 makes Illinois the first coal-producing state – and the first Midwestern state – to commit to a carbon-free future, putting the state on a path to achieve carbon-free power by 2045 and 100 percent clean energy by 2050. The bill shuts down all the state’s fossil fuel plants by 2045.” (Liza Featherstone, “Illinois Just Won A Big Green Jobs Victory,” [Jacobin Magazine](#), 9/21/22)

## **SB 2408 Makes Illinois The First Coal-Producing State To Commit To Going “Carbon-Free”**

- **NOTE:** *while the bill would shut down coal-based power plants; coal mining [is not directly impacted](#).*

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## **In 2020, Illinois Was The #4 Coal Producing State In The United States And Coal Is The Second Largest Energy Provider In The State**

**In 2020, Illinois Was The #4 Coal Producing State In The United States.** (“Coal Explained,” [United States Energy Information Administration](#), Accessed: 1/20/22)



(“Coal Explained,” [United States Energy Information Administration](#), Accessed: 1/20/22)

**Over The Past Decade, Coal-Fired Power Plants Were Illinois’ Second-Largest Electricity Provider.** “Coal-fired power plants have been the state's second-largest electricity provider for the past decade, but their output has declined from about half of Illinois' net electricity generation in 2008 to about a fifth in 2020, according to the EIA. Illinois is the country's fourth largest coal producer, after Wyoming, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the EIA says.” (Sebastien Malo, “In Midwest First, Illinois Bans Fossil Fuel Electricity Sources,” [Reuters](#), 9/15/21)

- **NOTE:** *There are no coal mines currently [active](#) in Illinois’ 17<sup>th</sup> congressional district.*

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act’s Largest Impact Is On Municipally Owned Utilities Which Could Cause Utility Rates To Rise And Hundreds In The State To Lose Their Jobs**

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act’s Largest Impact Is On Municipally Owned Utilities In Springfield And Marissa.** “Power plants that churn out electricity by burning fossil fuels will by 2035 have to cut emissions by 45% and permanently close by 2045. The largest imPACT will be on municipally-owned utilities in the capital city of Springfield and in Marissa, 41 miles (66 kilometers) southeast of St. Louis.” (KSDK Staff, “Pritzker: Illinois A 'Force For Good' By Cutting Carbon Gas,” [KSDK](#), 9/15/21)

**Utility Rates Could Rise To \$15 More Per Month.** “Lawmakers said utility rates will increase under the plan, costing ratepayers about \$3.50 more per month, although one interest group calculated a cost as high as \$15.” (KSDK Staff, “Pritzker: Illinois A 'Force For Good' By Cutting Carbon Gas,” [KSDK](#), 9/15/21)

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act Could Cause Prairie State Energy Campus To Close, Causing Hundreds To Lose Their Jobs.** “The state’s new law requires Prairie State Energy Campus to be 100% carbon-free by the end of 2045. It sets a goal of 45% emissions reduction by Jan. 1, 2035. If they don’t meet it by the end of that year, Prairie State must retire one or more units or further reduce emissions by 45% by the middle of 2038. Unless advancements in technology allow Prairie State to meet that goal, the roughly 600 people who work there will have to find new jobs.” (Kelsey Landis, “Clean Energy Law Spells An End To Coal In Illinois. Will Miners Resist Or Change?,” [Belleville News-Democrat](#), 1/7/22)

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act Also Impacts A Municipally Owned Coal Plant In Springfield.** “The bill passed by the Senate calls for Prairie State (and all other fossil fuel plants) to close by 2045, a deadline Gov. J.B. Pritzker has endorsed. Clean energy and environmental groups say Prairie State, Illinois’s largest carbon emitter by far, should be forced to meet declining emissions caps in the meantime. A statement from Pritzker’s office, published by Capitol Fax, said the office is ‘in discussions with stakeholders to ensure’ that Prairie State and a municipally owned coal plant in Springfield achieve ‘real interim emissions reductions’ leading up to 2045.” (Kari Lydersen, “Prairie State Coal Plant At Center Of High-Stakes Illinois Energy Debate,” [Energy News Network](#), 9/3/21)

**Amid Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Called For Scrapping The State’s 'Green New Deal'**

**Headline: “Amid Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Call For Scrapping 'Green New Deal'”** (Kevin Bessler, “Amid Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Call For Scrapping 'Green New Deal',” [The Center Square](#), 6/20/22)



FEATURED

## Amid possible blackouts, Illinois lawmakers call for scrapping 'Green New Deal'

By Kevin Bessler | The Center Square Jun 20, 2022

(Kevin Bessler, "Amid Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Call For Scrapping 'Green New Deal'," [The Center Square](#), 6/20/22)

**In The Wake Of Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Wanted To Revise The State's Energy Policies.** "(The Center Square) – In the wake of an alert warning of possible rolling blackouts this summer, some Illinois lawmakers want to revise the state's energy policies." (Kevin Bessler, "Amid Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Call For Scrapping 'Green New Deal'," [The Center Square](#), 6/20/22)

### **The Closures Of Many Coal Plants Caused Energy Bills To Skyrocket, Costing Illinoisans As Much As \$600 A Year While Risking Rolling Blackouts**

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act Mandated Municipal Coal, Including Prairie State And CWLP Dallman, To Be 100% Carbon-Free By 2045.** "Mandates municipal coal, including Prairie State and CWLP Dallman, to be 100% carbon-free by 2045, with an interim emissions reduction goal of 45% by 2035;" (Ryan Newburn, "Analysis Of The Illinois Climate And Equitable Jobs Act," [Newburn Law](#), 3/8/22)

**The Closures Of Many Coal Plants Are Causing Ameren Illinois Bills To Skyrocket.** "Ameren Illinois bills are skyrocketing due to inflation, increased consumption, and the closure of many coal plants causing energy shortages. Most people have seen information about the rising wholesale power prices in pamphlets with their Ameren bills for months now. But lawmakers say MISO is failing to approve renewable energy projects to meet the demand." (Mike Miletich, "Prospect Of Power Grid Shortages, Lack Of Action Anger Lawmakers," [Heart Of Illinois ABC](#), 7/21/22)

**CWLP Can't Produce As Much Power Because It Retired Two Of The Dallman Power Stations.** "CWLP can't produce as much power because it retired two of the Dallman power stations. It's also part of the reason CWLP Chief Utility Engineer Doug Brown says homeowners will see a price jump in addition to being asked to conserve power." (Andre Thomas, "All Of Illinois Facing Possible Rolling Blackouts, Except Chicago Area," [ABC News Channel 20](#), 5/19/22)

**Officials Said The Power Outages Are Possible Across The State Unless You Live In The Chicago Area.** "Officials say the power outages are possible across the state -- unless you live in the Chicago area. Those living in that area are on a separate power grid, which won't be impacted by MISO." (Andre Thomas, "All Of Illinois Facing Possible Rolling Blackouts, Except Chicago Area," [ABC News Channel 20](#), 5/19/22)

**The Increase In Rate Prices Is In Part Due To Long-Term Supply Challenges Brought On By The Impending Transition Away From Fossil Fuels Toward Renewable Energy Sources.** "The massive increase can be blamed on a myriad of factors, including the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War and long-term supply challenges brought on by the impending transition away from fossil fuels like coal and natural gas toward renewable energy sources like wind and solar." (Brendan Moore, "Watch Now: Downstate Illinois Electric Rates Set To Spike In June," [Herald & Review](#), 4/29/22)

**A Spokesman For Ameren Named The "Baseload Transition" As One Of The Reasons For Higher Costs.** "It's really a perfect storm of issues when you look at what's happening with the pandemic, demand picking up, what's going on in Ukraine and just overall supply," said Tucker Kennedy, spokesman for Ameren. "And then you've got this baseload transition happening. You kind of pull all those things together, that's what's really resulting in these higher wholesale power prices." (Brendan Moore, "Watch Now: Downstate Illinois Electric Rates Set To Spike In June," [Herald & Review](#), 4/29/22)

- **NOTE:** "Baseload transition" [refers](#) to the retirement of fossil fuel powered plants that supply a steady supply of power and a switch to renewables.

**According To Mark Denzler, Energy Availability Is Shrinking Due To The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act.** “Denzler said the energy available, especially in downstate areas, is shrinking due to last year’s Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, which pledged to eliminate Illinois fossil fuel power plants by 2045.” (Scott Bertram, “Possible Summertime Rolling Blackouts A Concern For Illinois Manufacturers,” [The Center Square](#), 5/19/22)

**Mark Denzler Claimed That Illinois Telling Traditional Power Generators That They Were No Longer Welcome Caused Them To Not Invest In Those Facilities, Allowing Them To Close Early.** “The state of Illinois is telling these traditional power generators, ‘You’re no longer welcome in Illinois and we’re going to close you down by a certain date,’ Denzler said. ‘So what’s happened is those companies said, ‘If we’re going to have to close down, why would we invest hundreds of millions of dollars in these facilities? We’re simply going to close them early.’” (Scott Bertram, “Possible Summertime Rolling Blackouts A Concern For Illinois Manufacturers,” [The Center Square](#), 5/19/22)

**Mark Denzler Is The President And CEO Of The Illinois Manufacturers’ Association.** “There is going to be a caPACity shortage and we’ve seen warnings from utilities and regional grid operators talking about potentially rolling brownouts as soon as this summer,’ said Mark Denzler, president and CEO of the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association.” (Scott Bertram, “Possible Summertime Rolling Blackouts A Concern For Illinois Manufacturers,” [The Center Square](#), 5/19/22)

**Pritzker’s Vow To Move Illinois To 100% Renewable Energy By 2045 Has Caused Investment In Traditional Sources Of Energy Generation To Plummet.** “Critics have blamed the potential shortages on Illinois Gov. Jay Pritzker’s vow to move the state to 100% renewable energy by 2045, which has caused investment in traditional sources of energy generation to plummet.” (Michael Lee, “Rush Toward Green Energy Has Left US ‘Incredibly’ Vulnerable To Summer Blackouts, Expert Warns,” [Fox News](#), 7/4/22)

**Some Say The Transition Away From Fossil Fuels Is Going Too Quickly, Leaving The State Without Enough Power And Higher Utility Bills.** “Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a green energy law last year that requires coal-fired power plants in the state to close by 2045, but some say the transition is going too quickly, leaving the state without enough power and higher utility bills.” (Kevin Bessler, “Consumer Advocates Accuse Midwest Grid Operator Of Foot-Dragging As Energy Prices Spike,” [The Center Square](#), 7/21/22)

- **NOTE:** *These impacts are primarily on the southern half of IL-17. The Northern part is on ComEd and MidAmerican Energy – not Ameren. Because of carbon mitigation credits, those in Northern IL are benefitting. However, those credits were [not made available](#) to southern and central IL.*

**Ameren Illinois Is The Utility Provider For Much Of Southern And Central Illinois.** (“Electric Utilities in Illinois Map,” [Illinois Energy Association](#), Accessed: 8/11/22)



(“Electric Utilities in Illinois Map,” [Illinois Energy Association](#), Accessed: 8/11/22)

**Midcontinent Independent System Operator Is Warning Illinoisans Of Possible Blackouts And Rising Energy Prices That Could Cost Families As Much As \$600 More A Year.** “Midcontinent Independent System Operator is warning Illinoisans of possible blackouts and

rising energy prices that could cost families as much as \$600 more a year.” (Kelvin Bessler, “Amid Possible Blackouts, Illinois Lawmakers Call For Scrapping 'Green New Deal',” [The Center Square](#), 6/20/22)

**In April 2022, *Herald & Review* Reported That A Typical Ameren Illinois Customer Would See About A \$48 Increase In Their Monthly Electric Bill, Or About A \$580 Annual Increase.** “A typical Ameren Illinois customer will see about a \$48 increase in their monthly electric bill, or about a \$580 annual increase, according to the utility, which has 1.2 million customers in downstate Illinois.” (Brendan Moore, “Watch Now: Downstate Illinois Electric Rates Set To Spike In June,” [Herald & Review](#), 4/29/22)

**The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Asked For The State To Cut Back On Usage And CWLP Warned That Illinoisians Should Get Ready For Rolling Blackouts And Higher Prices.** “During Tuesday's city council meeting, City Water, Light and Power (CWLP) said the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is asking for the state to cut back on usage. It's why they say Illinoisians should get ready for rolling blackouts and higher prices.” (Andre Thomas, “All Of Illinois Facing Possible Rolling Blackouts, Except Chicago Area,” [ABC News Channel 20](#), 5/19/22)

- **MISO Is The Regional Power Grid Overseer For Much Of The Midwest, Including Illinois.** “MISO is the regional power grid overseer for much of the Midwest, including Illinois.” (Andre Thomas, “All Of Illinois Facing Possible Rolling Blackouts, Except Chicago Area,” [ABC News Channel 20](#), 5/19/22)

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act Provided Nearly A Billion Dollars In What Critics Call A “Bailout” To Exelon, The Parent Company Of ComEd**

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act Provided \$700 Million To Exelon.** “Exelon Generation said Monday it is preparing to refuel its Byron and Dresden nuclear plants after the Illinois Senate passed legislation that will provide \$700 million in subsidies for the struggling units, which the power giant was poised to close.” (Scott Van Voorhis, “Landmark Illinois Climate Bill Resolves Standoff Over Exelon Nuclear Plants,” [Utility Dive](#), 9/15/21)

**The Climate And Equitable Jobs Act Provided What Critics Call A “Bailout” To Exelon, The Parent Company Of ComEd.** “Others take issue with what they term a ‘bailout’ for Exelon despite an ongoing federal investigation involving its subsidiary, ComEd. ComEd acknowledged to federal prosecutors last year that it had engaged in a decadelong bribery scheme in Springfield that has implicated and led to the ouster of former House Speaker Michael Madigan and produced indictments of Madigan’s closest confidante and a former ComEd CEO, among others.” (KSDK Staff, “Pritzker: Illinois A 'Force For Good' By Cutting Carbon Gas,” [KSDK](#), 9/15/21)

**The bailout props up two nuclear power plants – the Byron and Dresden Generating Stations – and the subsidy is paid for by “ratepayers.”** “To reach its goal of a carbon-free Illinois by 2045, the law props up two nuclear power plants – the Byron power station and the Dresden plant in Morris – that owner Exelon declared unprofitable in announcing last month that they would close without legislative intervention. A \$700 million ratepayer-financed subsidy to Exelon saves thousands of jobs associated with the plants and the large amount of clean power they provide, which boosts the state’s race with the climate from the start.” (KSDK Staff, “Pritzker: Illinois A 'Force For Good' By Cutting Carbon Gas,” [KSDK](#), 9/15/21)