

Illinoisans for Global Warming Solutions

(130 Illinois community leaders, clergy, university professors, educators, local elected officials)

January 15, 2008

Dear Members of the Illinois General Assembly,

We are concerned about the threat of global warming to our environment and future Generations. After decades of debating the science of global warming, there is now a clear scientific consensus that global warming is happening, that pollution from fossil fuel combustion is largely responsible, and that the consequence of inaction will be unacceptable. To avoid these consequences we must stop the growth of global warming emissions as quickly as possible, reduce global warming pollution to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Now is the time for our leaders, at the local, state and national levels, to take meaningful action to prevent the worst impacts of global warming.

In the Midwest, and Illinois in particular, we have an important role to play in the global warming debate for several reasons. First, as the sixth largest source of global warming pollution, Illinois can make a big impact by addressing the pollution coming from within our borders. Second, we have an abundance of clean energy solutions at our disposal, most notably wind power and biofuels, so we can help to bring clean energy to the marketplace.

Dozens of states across the country have adopted mandatory emission standards for the two biggest sources of global warming pollution – automobiles and power plants. For example, three states, New Jersey, California and Hawaii, have adopted economy-wide global warming pollution caps. Six western Governors have agreed on a regional cap for emissions in Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and California. Twelve states have adopted clean car standards to cut global warming emission from cars by 30%. Ten states have set limits on global warming pollution from power plants.

These states have realized that clean energy solutions are not only good for the environment, but also benefit our economy and our health, and they are positioning their states to succeed as clean energy leaders. For example, clean car standards that reduce global warming pollution will also save consumers money at the gas pump while also reducing smog and soot pollution that now cause asthma attacks, heart attacks and worse. Clean energy standards will spur the development of our wind energy resource, creating new revenues for farmers and rural economies. Energy efficiency investments lower electric bills for big industry and individual consumers.

Two out of every three Illinoisans live in an area that fails to meet federal air quality standards and the nation's medical experts say current standards are still not adequate to protect the public. Promoting clean energy and energy efficiency will also reduce the air pollution that now harms our health today.

Your support is critical for Illinois to move forward to adopt global warming solutions. I urge you to support policies to:

- Set a mandatory limit on global warming pollution from power plants and industrial facilities, gradually declining to 1990 levels by 2020.
- Adopt the same clean car standards to cut pollution from the automobile fleet by 30%. Twelve states already have these standards on the books.
- Maximize statewide energy savings through energy efficiency program, codes and standards.
- Support the development of a robust renewable energy industry.

Sincerely,
(signatories listed alphabetically)

Vince Allocco, Ph.D.
Executive Director
El Valor
Pilsen

Dr. Barbara J. Anderson
Professor of Biology
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn

David Archer
Professor, Geophysical Science
University of Chicago

Jessica Arranda
Executive Director
Latino Union of Chicago

Nancy Ballantine
Live Roof, LLC
Hinsdale, IL

Brenda Palms Barber
CEO
North Lawndale Employment Network and Sweet Beginnings, LLC

Ramon Becerra
Chairman
Chicago Metro Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)

Nancy Bigelow, Science Teacher
Benito Juarez Community Academy
Pilsen

Rev. Richard Blackburn
Executive Director
Lombard Mennonite Peace Venter

Father Donald Blaeser, O.F.M.
Ministry of the Word Team
St. Gratian Friary
Countryside, Illinois

Gerald Bork
Chairman
Carroll County Democrats, Mt. Carroll, IL

Francisco Borrás
Principal
Community Links High School

Reverend Dr. Michael Bradburn
Senior Pastor
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Hinsdale, Illinois

Dorian Breuer
President
Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization

Patrick Brosnan
Executive Director
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

Christine Bruun
Professor of Psychology
Rockford College

Clare Butterfield
Executive Director
Faith In Place

Susan Camasta
Environmental Concerns
Hinsdale South High School, Darien

James Carey
President
U.S.A. Geothermal LLC, Belvidere

Susan Carlson
Help Our Precious Earth
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Wilmette

Father Robert Casey
Pastor
Our Lady of Tepeyac Church

Jorge Cestou
Executive Director
Little Village Community Development Corporation

Ra Chaka
Organizer
African American Alliance for Peace and Justice

Francisco Cisneros
Executive Director
Pilsen/Little Village Community Mental Health Center

Willie Cochran, Alderman
20th Ward
Chicago

Reverend Don Coleman, Pastor
University Church
Chicago, IL 60637

Ken Cosgrove
School Board Member
Village of Glen Ellyn

Mary Jean Cravens
Professor of Sociology
College of DuPage

Glen Ellyn

Reverend Brendan Curran, O.P.
Pastor
St. Pius V Parish

Reverend Charles Dahm
St. Pius V. Parish

Vi Daley, Alderwoman
43rd Ward
Chicago

Bill Dawe
Green Sanctuary Committee
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale

Mehmet Dik, Ph.D.
Chair & Asst Prof of Mathematics
Rockford College
Rockford, IL

Alexis Eckersall
Science Teacher
Glenbard East High School, Lombard

Kurt Engel
Environmental Science Teacher
Lyons Township High School

Environmental Stewardship Committee
Downers Grove First United Methodist Church
Downers Grove, IL

Amanda Espitia
Executive Director
Illinois League of Conservation Voters

Vijayarani Fedson
Chair, Environmental Sustainability Taskforce of the
Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

Robert Fioretti, Alderman

2nd Ward
Chicago

Pastor Soren Flessen
Social Ministry Team
Grace Lutheran Church, La Grange

Reverend Lewis Flowers
President
Westside Ministers Coalition

Reverend Matt Foley
Pastor
St. Agnes of Bohemia

Steven L. Forman
Professor of Earth and Environmental Science
Director Luminescence Dating Research Laboratory, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Brenda Forster
Professor of Sociology
Elmhurst College
Elmhurst, Illinois

Pastor John Freidheim
Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church
Villa Park, Illinois

Patricia Garrity, Principal
Cristo Rey High School, Little Village

Dr. Julie Gibbs, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
College of DuPage

Holly Gillis
President
Eco-Campus Group
University of Illinois, Chicago

Gene Glaudell
District 89 Board of Education

Glen Ellyn

Dr. Christian Goergen, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science
College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn

Rebecca Gordon
Pastor
Nativity Lutheran Church, Wonder Lake

Krista Grimm
President
League of Women Voters of the LaGrange Area

Chris Guerrieri
Teacher
Downers Grove North High School

Luis Gutierrez
Executive Director
Latinos Progresando

Fred Hadley, Ph.D.
Dept. of Chemistry/Biochemistry
Rockford College, Rockford, IL

Rev. Dr. Julie Ruth Harley
Minister for Membership and Disciplenship
Union Church of Hinsdale, United Church of Christ
Hinsdale, IL

Wealtha Helland
Associate Professor of Public Health Nursing
Rockford College

Dr. Jan Hessler, Ph.D.
Research Physicist
Downers Grove, IL

Reverend Hoffmeyer
Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Westmont

Reverend Bill Hoglund
Pastor
First Congregational United Church of Christ of Downers Grove

Pastor James K. Honig
Senior Pastor
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Fr. Timothy Howe, SJ
Pastor
St. Procopius, Pilsen
Chicago, IL

Alejandra Ibañez
Executive Director
Pilsen Alliance

Marguerite Jackson, Ph.D.
Principal
St. Gregory Episcopal School

Dr. Richard H. Jarman
Professor of Chemistry
College of DuPage

Peter P Jarosz
Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois
Christ the King Catholic Church, Lombard

Rev. Susan B.W. Johnson
Senior Minister
Hyde Park Union Church

Angela Jones
Green Designer
GreenTone Environmental Design, Rockford

Dr. Nancy Kett
Professor of Biology
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn

Mark Kienzynski
Geology and Physics Teacher
Lyons Township High School, LaGrange

Sr. Sue Kilduski, OSB
Chicago, IL

Dr. Kimberly Lawler-Sagarin
Associate Professor
Elmhurst College

Rev. Fred Kinsey
Pastor
Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago

David Lloyd
Green Sanctuary Committee
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale

Natividad Loreda, Principal
Benito Juarez Community Academy
Pilsen

Professor Douglas R. MacAyeal
Department of Geophysical Sciences
University of Chicago

Hank Mandziara
Village Trustee
Village of Bensenville

Most Reverend John R. Manz
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Vicariate III

John Mascarenhas
Director
Sustainable Business Alliance of Chicago

H. Scott Matheney
Chaplain and Dean of Religious Life
Elmhurst College

Dr. Thomas McIntyre
Professor Sociology
Rockford College, Rockford, IL

Gerald Mead
Membership Steward
Pilsen Greens

Reverend Marco Mercado, Pastor
Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Little Village

Sarah Milone
Co-Chair
College of DuPage, Campus Greens
Glen Ellyn

Gary Mitchell
Science Department Chair
Downers Grove North High School

Ms. Dana Moreau
Village Trustee
District 4, Lombard

Rev. Calvin S. Morris, Ph.D.,
Executive Director Community Renewal Society
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Alfredo Nambo, Principal
Big Picture High School at Back of the Yards

Judith Neafsey, M.D.
Medical Director
Lower West Neighborhood Health Center

Reverend Don Nevins
Pastor
St. Frances of Assisi

Peter Nicholson
Creative and Executive Director
Foresight Design Initiative

Sarah Novey
Physics & Chemistry Teacher
Downers Grove South High School
Downers Grove, Illinois

Vic Orler, Trustee
City of Hinsdale, Illinois

Rev. Tomas Ostrander
Senior Pastor
Downers Grove First United Methodist Church
Downers Grove, IL

Dr. Paul Parker, Ph.D.
Professor & Chairperson
Department of Theology and Religion
Elmhurst College

Rev. Thom Parrott-Sheffer
Minister for Christian Formation and Mission
Union Church of Hinsdale

Reverend David Pattee
Interim Senior Minister
First Congregational United Church of Christ
LaGrange, Illinois

Allen Penticoff
Director of Communications
Green Communities Coalition, Rockford

Maria Pesqueria
Executive Director
Mujeres Latinas en Accion

Raymond T. Pierrehumbert
Professor, Geophysical Sciences
University of Chicago

Professor Trevor Price
Department of Ecology and Evolution
Biological Sciences Collegiate Division
University of Chicago

Theresa Quain
Physics Teacher
Downers Grove South High School

Brendan Reilly, Alderman
42nd Ward
Chicago

Rev. Luis F. Reyes
Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Bensenville

Leslie Ritter-Jenkins
Minister of Discipleship
First Congregational Church of Western Springs

Judy Roothaan and Ken Schug
Co-Presidents
Hyde Park OWL Older Women's League

Rev. Dr. Ann L. Rosewall
Interim Associate Pastor
Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago

Mel Rothenburg
Convener
Hyde Parkers for Peace and Justice

George Rumsey
President
Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference

Rev. Neal Sadler
St. Matthew United Church of Christ
Wheaton

Juan Salgado
Executive Director
Instituto del Progreso Latino

August Sallas,
President

Little Village Community Council
Hispanic American Labor Council

Kirk Samples
Principal, Franklin Elementary School
Glen Ellyn

Dr. Shamili A. Sandiford
Biology Professor
College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn

Rev. Phil Schairbaum
Pastor
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Downers Grove

Sr. Marlene Schemmel
Congregation of St. Josheph, La Grange Park

Reverend Ed Searl
Pastor
Hinsdale Unitarian Church

Rev. Dean Shapely
Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Western Springs
Western Springs, IL

Rev. Alexander E. Sharp
Executive Director
Protestants for the Common Good

Michael Simmons
Pastor
Spring Creek United Church of Christ, Rockford

Dr. Richard Simmons
Professor of Health, Social and Behavioral Science
College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn

Dr. James Smith

Professor of Sociology
Elmhurst College

J. Michael Solberg
Senior Minister
Second Congregational United Church of Christ
Rockford, IL

Danny Solis, Alderman
25th Ward,
Chicago

Sr. Mary Southard
Congregation of St. Joseph, La Grange Park

Rebecca Stanfield
State Director
Environment Illinois

Dr. Theodore L. Steck
Chair, Environmental Studies Program
University of Chicago

Reverend John Surette, S.J.
Leader of Eco-Spirituality Workshops
Congregation of St. Joseph
LaGrange Park, Illinois

Chuck Thurow
Executive Director
Hyde Park Arts Center

Reverend Michael A. Toburen
Pastor
Yorkfield Presbyterian Church
Elmhurst, Illinois

Michael Toney, Ph.D.
Director
Urban Health Program

Rev. Larry Turpin
Pastor

United Church of Hyde Park, Chicago, IL

Brian Urbaszewski
Director of Environmental Health Program
Respiratory Health Assn. of Metropolitan Chicago

Carmen Velásquez
Executive Director
Alivio Medical Center

Steve Vidal
Vice President
Juarez Community Academy Local School Council

Dr. Beth Vlad, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
College of DuPage
Glen Ellyn

Chuck Westrom
Conservation Guardians of Northwest Illinois
Elizabeth, IL

Dr. Lance Wilcox
Professor of English
Elmhurst College

Tamara Witzl
Principal
Telpochcalli School, Little Village

Barbara Yong
President
Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women