



## SENATE ENERGY WORKING GROUP

### SENATOR MICHAEL E. HASTINGS, CHAIRMAN

May 1, 2020

Ms. Carrie Zalewski  
Chairperson, Illinois Commerce Commission  
Michael A. Bilandic Building  
160 North LaSalle Street, Suite C-800  
Chicago, Illinois 60016

Dear Madam Chairperson:

The Illinois Senate Energy Working Group is charged with *reviewing existing statutes as well as proposed legislation related to energy generation and support of energy infrastructure in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Our working group has discussed legislation filed in the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and has determined that consumer assistance to residential, business and industrial customers post-moratorium is of the utmost importance. Understanding that residents of the state of Illinois will endure financial hardship following this pandemic, we ask that the Commission give strong consideration to the following topic areas before your administrative body.

#### **Grace Period for Shut Offs**

In a post-moratorium environment, there will be residential, business and industrial customers who will be unable to pay the balance on their bills. Understanding that there is a protocol for customer shut off, the Illinois Senate Energy Working Group recommends a grace period of at least an additional sixty (60) days post-moratorium before a utility provider can consider shutting off a customer's utility.

#### **Deferred Payment Arrangements**

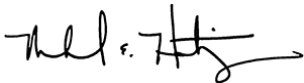
Today, utility companies engage in negotiations with their customers on Deferred Payment Arrangements (DPAs). Understanding that there is not a consistent policy for DPA for all utility providers, the Illinois Senate Energy Working Group recommends at least a fixed twelve (12) month period for all DPAs. In the event of a certified financial hardship, a timeframe of at least eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months should be granted. In the event of a customer default, they should be eligible for an amended DPA.

**Customer Communications**

All communication to consumers following the pandemic must be clear and concise. The Illinois Senate Energy Working group recommends that following the COVID-19 pandemic and at the end of any public health emergency, utility providers must send a letter to customers with past due account balances. In addition, utility providers must outline to the consumer available payment options and other programs that provide financial assistance to the customer.

We thank you for your leadership and hard work during these unprecedented times and kindly ask for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,



Senator Michael E. Hastings  
19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chairman



Senator Sue Rezin  
38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Minority Spokesperson



Senator Neil Anderson  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Christopher Belt  
57<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Melinda Bush  
31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Senator Cristina Castro  
22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District



Senator Bill Cunningham  
18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Laura Ellman  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



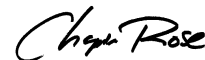
Senator Patrick J. Joyce  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator David Koehler  
46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Paul Schimpf  
58<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Senator Chapin Rose  
51<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Senator Craig Wilcox  
32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District