



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

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CUB APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF THE CLEAN & RELIABLE GRID AFFORDABILITY (CRGA) ACT

The following is a statement from Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Executive Director Sarah Moskowitz:

The General Assembly's passage of the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act is a victory for Illinois consumers. Our escalating energy bills require solutions at the state, regional, and federal levels, so passing the CRGA Act is a significant and urgently needed step to protect consumers from future electricity market volatility. As Illinois faces poor policy from the regional power grid operators and an unprecedented increase in energy demand sparked by data centers, the CRGA Act is a long-term, pro-consumer plan to help solve the supply-demand imbalance and fight price spikes by expanding energy efficiency and cost-effectively bringing more affordable electricity to the grid. Passage of the CRGA Act is a major step forward, but there's more work to do. Having spoken to so many Illinois consumers worried sick about their soaring electric bills, CUB feels an urgency to immediately begin the hard work of implementing the CRGA Act alongside state regulators and advocates. And we are committed to passing additional reforms in future legislative sessions to make sure electric customers aren't being burdened by unfair data center costs.

We thank Illinois consumers who sent thousands of messages to Springfield in favor of the CRGA Act.

Background:

- The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) is comprehensive energy legislation that passed in the Illinois General Assembly's Fall Veto Session. The measure passed the House 70-37 on Oct. 29, and it passed the Senate 37-22 on Oct. 30.
- Among other reforms, the CRGA Act would:
 - Add 3 gigawatts (GW) of battery storage to the system, enough to power millions of homes and protect Illinoisans from electric price volatility.
 - Give consumers tools to reduce their utility bills, like increasing access to rebates to weatherize homes and purchase efficient appliances.
 - Launch a "virtual power plant" initiative to pool thousands of small solar and storage projects to replace more expensive forms of electricity generation.
- The measure now goes to Gov. J.B. Pritzker for his signature.

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For more than 40 years the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) has been Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has helped save consumers more than \$20 billion by blocking rate hikes and securing refunds. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline, at 1-800-6695556, or visit CUB's website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

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