August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2021

The Honorable Governor J.B. Pritzker  
State of Illinois  
100 W. Randolph, 16th floor  
Chicago, IL 60601  

Dear Governor Pritzker and leaders of the Illinois General Assembly:

In spite of months of productive, thoughtful debates with a diverse set of stakeholders to create an aggressive plan to overcome the threat of climate change in Illinois, we are no longer confident that a deal can be reached this summer.

We sadly write to inform you today that as a result of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition’s failure to negotiate in good faith, we have reached what we believe is an impasse in reaching an agreed-upon clean energy bill due to seemingly intractable differences on the issues of decarbonization and prevailing wage standards.

We do not take this action without exhaustive deliberation and consideration, but in assessing our counterparts’ track record over the last several weeks of negotiations following the spring session, it appears they do not share our goal of finding common ground. Rather, they seem intent on running out the clock in order to force events that actually detract from the state’s ability to generate more clean and reliable energy.

Following a June 16 meeting between Climate Jobs Illinois and the Clean Jobs coalition in Springfield, it was agreed that both sides would produce updated decarbonization and prevailing wage offset language. The lead negotiators for Climate Jobs Illinois submitted proposed language on decarbonization to the Clean Jobs coalition on June 27, and a day later, our negotiators submitted updated prevailing wage offset language to their Clean Jobs counterparts.

Our coalition learned the next day—via a morning alert in Capitol Fax—that the Clean Jobs coalition had rejected our proposed decarbonization language. In at least 4 subsequent meetings since we provided alternative language on these two areas, the
Clean Jobs coalition has failed to submit any counter proposals. That leads us to believe our counterparts have no intention of working with us.

Because of the group’s failure to negotiate in good faith, we are forced to declare an impasse in the negotiations. We do not relish this moment. No one wins in this scenario.

As our state’s leaders, we implore you to step in and work to find a way to get a deal done. There is too much on the line: Tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs. Thousands of new jobs created to build our clean energy infrastructure of the future. Greater opportunities for underserved communities to have a fair shot at learning new skills and earning a decent wage to lift their families out of poverty. Energy efficiency for our public schools. Clean energy fleets for our public transit system. And so much more that is necessary to reduce emissions and generate new clean power sources.

As we see in the eroding shores of Lake Michigan and the hazy skies over Illinois caused by the wildfires raging in the West, the threat of climate change is not an imaginary or far-off problem. It is a very real and imminent danger for our communities.

We know our counterparts understand the importance of meeting this moment with bold action, but we also hope they share the view that the cost of doing nothing is too high to bear.

We plead with you to help everyone involved to set aside differences in order to make progress and not allow perfect to be the enemy of good. To take on the biggest challenge of our generation, we must work together.

Sincerely,

Tim Drea
President
IL AFL-CIO

Pat Devaney
Secretary Treasurer
IL AFL-CIO

Ralph Affrunti
President
Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades

Bob Reiter
President
Chicago Federation of Labor

James M. Sweeney
President-Business Manager
International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 150

Don Finn
Business Manager
IBEW Local 134
Gary Perinar  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters

John Gedney  
International Representative  
UAW Region 4

Terry Healy  
Vice President & Great Lakes Regional Manager  
Laborers International Union of North America

Paul Noble  
International Representative  
IBEW District 6

John Penn  
Vice President & Midwest Regional Manager  
Laborer’s International Union Midwest Region

Kathi Griffin  
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Heat & Frost Insulators Local 17

Dan Montgomery  
President  
Illinois Federation of Teachers

David Beard  
General Vice President  
International Association of Bridge Structural Ornamental & Reinforcing Ironworkers

Tom Balanoff  
President  
SEIU Local 1

James Gardiner  
President  
Iron Workers District Council of Chicago & Vicinity

Gina Walsh  
Deputy Director  
Heat & Frost Insulators LMCT

Cc: Senate President Don Harmon  
Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch  
Leader Dan McConchie  
Leader Jim Durkin