



March 31, 2016

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
500 E. Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

**Business Council for Sustainable Energy Comments re: Illinois Energy Roadmap**

Submitted via: [mpruitt1@iit.edu](mailto:mpruitt1@iit.edu)

I am writing on behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) in response to the request for information regarding the Illinois Energy Roadmap. BCSE encourages the state to take advantage of the broad range of readily-available clean energy technologies as you consider forward-looking energy plans and strategies to increase the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy to help meet Illinois' future energy needs.

The Council is a twenty-three year old organization representing a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors. Our mission is to promote clean, affordable and reliable energy solutions for homes and businesses across the United States. While BCSE is a national organization, our members see opportunities to expand clean energy investment and deployment in Illinois.

BCSE applauds Illinois for continuing its compliance planning for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan despite the stay issued by the Supreme Court in February. The power sector and its customers now have a variety of new technologies and services that will allow Illinois to meet its carbon reduction goals. Many of these technologies have seen significant cost reductions in recent years and new business models are being utilized to accelerate deployment.

To facilitate energy planning decisions, BCSE has partnered with Bloomberg New Energy Finance on the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#). The *Factbook* provides up-to-date, accurate market information about US energy industries. It also aims to fill important data gaps, especially in technology areas that are fast-moving and, in some cases, are often not well understood. These span technologies like combined heat and power, hydropower, fuel cells and energy storage.

The purpose of the *Factbook* is to provide real-time information on technology costs and market dynamics to support policymaking. Through this initiative, the Council has reviewed key clean energy trends in Illinois, including:

- Illinois' electricity generation mix coming from natural gas and renewables accounted for 9% of the state's consumption in the power sector in 2013, up 4.8% from 2008.
- Illinois received a score of 26 for energy efficiency according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's Index, above the national average of 19.2.
- Electricity demand in Illinois decreased 2.1% from 2008 to 2013.

A document with key energy facts for the state of Illinois is attached.

BCSE would be pleased to have the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the portfolio of energy options available for Illinois. It is our sincere hope that the BCSE and its individual members can serve as a resource to you and your staff in the coming months as you explore Clean Power Plan compliance pathways that compliment your energy and economic development objectives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Jacobson".

Lisa Jacobson, President

1 Attachment