

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We, the members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, write to you today to strongly support the proposal submitted by the Illinois Smart Grid Collaboration to the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability to establish a Smart Grid Regional Demonstration in Illinois.

Due to our state's strategic geographic location, an Illinois-based regional demonstration has significant national implications for Smart Grid implementation. Illinois serves as a central hub for the nation's transmission grid and electricity markets, as emphasized by our participation in both the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) and PJM Interconnection systems. Our universities and utilities are deeply engaged in this initiative and have the expertise and experience to provide a strong return on this investment.


Led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), the Illinois Smart Grid Collaboration proposal has garnered enthusiastic backing throughout the State. More than 60 organizations lent their support to the proposal, including ComEd, Ameren, Argonne National Laboratory, and the City of Chicago to name just a few and Governor Pat Quinn has recently committed up to \$30 million to the Collaboration. Such broad support and cooperation underscores Illinois' leadership in working toward the common goal of a greener economy.


Illinois' establishment as a Smart Grid Regional Demonstration would provide a national research and development framework that will help lower costs, increase reliability, and ensure that our nation's electricity network remains safe from cyber-attack and other vulnerabilities.

We appreciate your consideration of this project and look forward to working with you to ensure that our transition to a Smart Grid system remains timely and thoroughly researched.

Sincerely,



Rep. Timothy V. Johnson


Rep. John Shinkus


Rep. Danny Davis


Rep. Debbie Halvorson


Rep. Donald Manzullo


Rep. Peter Roskam

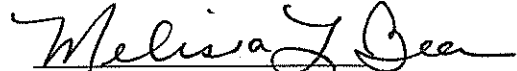

Rep. Mike Quigley

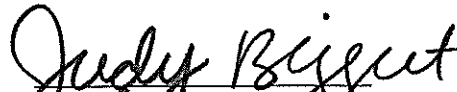

Rep. Janice Schakowsky



Rep. Jerry Costello


Rep. Luis Gutierrez


Rep. Daniel Lipinski


Rep. Melissa Bean


Rep. Judy Biggert


Rep. Aaron Schock


Rep. Bill Foster


Rep. Bobby Rush


Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.


Rep. Mark Kirk


Rep. Phil Hare