Dear Friends,

We don’t have to tell you that the start of this new decade has been a particularly hard one. Communities around the world and right here at home are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and families are struggling with economic uncertainty. But we also know that clean air, water, food, and a stable climate are universal basic needs that all families depend on, too. That is why now, more than ever, we remain committed to our mission to protect water, heal land, and inspire change—work that is vital for a healthier world.

Sadly, before the coronavirus pandemic even started, the Trump Administration had already unleashed a crusade against environmental protection, and Illinois agencies charged with protecting our land and water have suffered major declines in budget, staff, and effectiveness. Matters will only get worse as the powerful and politically-connected fossil fuel and ag industries take advantage of the coronavirus crisis to demand weaker rules on pollution and cash bailouts for themselves at the expense of hardworking, struggling families.

Non-profits often do the work that local, state, and national governments can’t or won’t do. There are so many worthwhile charities helping our communities every day. And the work Prairie Rivers Network does is essential—right now and into the future. We will work to ensure all Illinoisans have access to clean water. We will promote strong, local food systems and supply chains that improve the health of our environment and our communities. We will make a clean energy future a reality—building a robust green energy sector that will help avert the looming climate crisis while creating jobs. These programs are vital to environmental and public health, and we need you to join us in carrying them out.

We are so grateful for our members, who trust us with their donations because of our 50+ year history of getting things done. At our Annual Dinner last year, we asked guests why they value being a PRN member:

“PRN is doing real and tangible work to protect the environment and protecting habitat for wild creatures.”

“They do the heavy lifting”

“This is an organization that picks the important river issues and organizes effectively in a grassroots way. They increase awareness, lobby, and get laws passed!”

“I am proud to be a small contributor to such important environmental work.”

We understand this is a time of economic uncertainty for families. That is also true for non-profits across the state and country. So, if you are financially able and you believe in the work that we are doing to confront the ongoing and emerging environmental and public health crises, we are asking you to give your annual donation right now — give for the first time, renew your membership, or make an extra gift today. Together, we’ll get through this and ensure a better future.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

The staff at Prairie Rivers Network
On Climate and COVID-19

The world is changing in fundamental ways. We are living in unprecedented times.

The COVID-19 crisis has upended our daily lives, our work, our livelihoods, and our interactions with friends and family. The impacts are felt worldwide, with the most vulnerable among us at greatest risk. And as one immediate crisis unfolds, another lurks in the background threatening to amplify and exacerbate every problem arising from the global pandemic. The climate crisis will only pose further threats to public health, food security, clean air and water, and climate stability. The foundations of civil society are going to be tested.

The convergence of these two crises will impact everyone for years to come. With the understanding that public and planetary health are inextricably linked, we have to act... today. Every minute we wait, we make the task ahead more difficult. That is why Prairie Rivers Network is fully committed to doing everything it takes to protect the health of our communities.

As events unfold, we see parallels in our collective response to both COVID-19 and the climate crisis. There has been a failure of leadership at the federal level, where data, expert experience, and science have largely been ignored. Complacency and denial in the face of overwhelming evidence have hampered response efforts and squandered opportunities to get ahead of the curve. What we need now, more than ever, is bold decisive action to address these crises for the long-term health of people and the planet.

We are heartened by the actions of our family, friends, and neighbors to self-isolate and take care of others. We are grateful to the people who work on the frontlines during this crisis, ensuring that everyone gets healthcare and access to basic needs.

In fighting COVID-19, we all must be part of the solution. If we are to address the growing and worldwide climate crisis with similar dedication, we must all act collectively.

What PRN is Doing

We at PRN remain steadfast in our mission. Our work to protect clean water, promote healthier farming practices, and advance clean energy have taken on a heightened urgency in recent weeks.

The work Catie Gregg does to educate farmers of the benefits of regenerative agriculture holds carbon sequestration, climate, and food security at its core. Collectively, we can protect our soil and environment while simultaneously improving the availability of healthy food and bolstering rural economies.

Likewise, Kim Erndt-Pitcher raises awareness of the damage that dicamba and other herbicides do to our food crops and trees. Her work ensures that farmers, crops, and the birds and insects that pollinate them, are safeguarded.

We will continue to promote renewable energy while addressing the environmental and public health impacts posed by fossil fuels, ensuring a cleaner, more secure energy future. In this difficult moment, we must continue to stand up for what we believe in. We must continue to care for one another, and for our planet. In doing so, we strive for a brighter future for all.
DIRECTOR’S NOTES

Elliot Brinkman
First and foremost, I hope you, your family, and loved ones are safe amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Everyone at Prairie Rivers Network wishes you good health during these unprecedented and difficult times. I often use this space in our newsletter to discuss the relationship between current events and the work we do. However, I never would have imagined that I would be writing about the profound impacts a global pandemic poses for our work and for society.

There have been a few changes to our operations. As you may know, PRN closed its office on March 13th as a preventative measure, and staff have been working from home. We have had to cancel or postpone several in-person events and meetings, and we are actively working to devise virtual options to stay connected with our members, partners, and friends.

Despite these changes, we remain committed to our mission. We are living through a transformative moment in history, and yet, our core values and work have never been more relevant. Every one of us believes in what we have historically advocated for: clean water, healthy and abundant food, and communities free of pollution. None of that has changed.

What has changed is our awareness that these issues are even more important now than they were two months ago. We need to invest in clean water, improved food systems, and secure, renewable energy. These are absolutely critical as we work through this crisis and once we emerge from it.

The staff, board, and members of PRN are dedicated to promoting a better, more just, and more peaceful world. We hope the contents of this newsletter demonstrate that dedication. We are extremely grateful for all of you, our network of members, supporters, partners, and friends. You enable our ability to make progress on these important issues, even in the face of change. Please stay safe, and stay tuned as our work continues. //

At Prairie Rivers Network, we protect water, heal land, and inspire change. Using the creative power of science, law, and collective action, we protect and restore our rivers, return healthy soils and diverse wildlife to our lands, and transform how we care for the earth and for each other.

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WHY I GIVE

In the past year, I had grown depressed at the worsening state of the environment and how little our government is acting to protect our natural resources. I made the decision that I wanted to get involved with a local organization that was actively addressing environmental issues in Illinois.

At this time, coincidently, I was seeing news stories about Prairie Rivers Network’s involvement in coal ash regulations and their fight to protect our waterways.

The idea came to me that I could be of some small service by participating in a fundraiser. I plan to run in the Illinois Marathon (the 5k, maybe the 10K if I can) to raise money and awareness for PRN.

As I train to do that, I wanted to use my birthday as a means to promote the work of PRN while raising money and committing myself to the run. (Because when you tell your friends and family you’re doing it, you can’t back down.)

I look forward to working with PRN and hope to be more involved in the future.

Thank you, Scott Baseler, for supporting PRN with your Facebook Fundraiser celebrating your birthday.
Protect Water

Illinois’ Last Coal Mine

While the COVID-19 pandemic and its response has turned everyone’s lives upside down, farmers and other community members in East-Central Illinois are still grappling with their fight against the Bulldog Mine. The proposed mine, if constructed, would almost certainly be Illinois’ last new coal mine. The world is moving on from coal, looking to cleaner energy sources to protect our planet while powering the future. Yet last year, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources put their stamp of approval on the mining permit for the Bulldog Mine.

It started a decade ago, when Sunrise Coal submitted an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) Office of Mines and Minerals for a new underground coal mine in Vermilion County that would be called the Bulldog Mine. Local and regional community members and farmers joined together to form Stand Up To Coal, a 100% grassroots and volunteer group working to protect prime Illinois farmland and the Salt Fork River. Stand Up To Coal, Prairie Rivers Network, and other advocates have been fighting the proposed Bulldog Mine ever since. Unfortunately, in April 2019, the IDNR finally granted the Coal Mine Permit, but Stand Up To Coal is challenging the permit through an Administrative Review to see if it meets the letter of the law.

There are many concerns about long-term harmful impacts coal mining can have on communities. These include groundwater and well contamination, air pollution from dirty coal dust, road damage from heavy trucks, and contamination of neighboring farmland from leaking above-ground slurry impoundments long after mining has ceased. The Salt Fork of the Vermillion River will bear the burden of the discharges from this mine. We have seen these impacts in other mining communities across Illinois.

The Administrative Review of the mining permit is a quasi-judicial process where community members stand up as petitioners to challenge the mining permit to see if it follows the law. The process requires legal counsel and technical experts to be successful. Many of the local residents who would be impacted by the mine, and Stand Up To Coal itself, are petitioners. Most recently, the mine’s lawyers have filed to dismiss nearly all of the petitioners, including Stand Up To Coal, from participating in the review.

To meet projected climate targets, we need to be rapidly transitioning away from coal, not opening a new coal mine. PRN believes in actively transitioning away from coal while supporting communities and workers in that transition. That is why we have supported the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which has a plan to help coal mine and coal power plant communities. Now is not the time for a new coal mine, but instead a just transition to a clean energy future. //

Consider signing our petition to Stop Illinois’ Last New Coal Mine prairierivers.org/StopBulldog
Heal Land

Tackling Climate Change with Soil

We focus a lot on how regenerative agricultural practices can protect our soil, keeping it in the field and out of our water. This can be a great win-win situation as practices that protect our water can also make a farm more resilient to severe weather. This is particularly important as we begin to see both more intense rainstorms in the spring and fall, and more dry periods in the summer due to climate change.

Over the next 30 years, these weather changes are expected to reduce crop yields in the Midwest back to the productivity levels seen in the 1980s. However, improved soil health and water quality are not the only benefits of managing our lands regeneratively. One of the main ways to improve soil health is to increase the Soil Organic Matter, or carbon, in the soil. The same practices that will help farmers be more resilient to climate change can also be climate mitigation tools.

You can learn more about how practices such as planting cover crops, reducing tillage, and increasing diversity improve soil health at: prairierivers.org/uncategorized/2019/04/what-is-healthy-soil/.

Agriculture has largely been seen as a major contributor of greenhouse gases with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimating that agriculture is responsible for one third of our emissions. Since we first plowed up the prairie in Illinois, we have lost roughly half of the carbon in our soils. But this does not have to be the end of the story. Some farmers are starting to see their potential to be a big part of the solution. Conservation farmer, Derek Martin said, “We could solve the carbon problem in the world with what we’re doing. [But] it’s going to be hard to convince the masses.” See prairierivers.org/uncategorized/2019/08/the-martin-farm/ to learn more about how the Martins are benefiting from conservation practices on their farm.

Reducing emissions will not be enough to reverse climate change. We already have too much carbon in our atmosphere and are experiencing the effects of climate change now. Reducing our emissions will help things not get worse, but we need more. We need to remove carbon that is already in the atmosphere. After the ocean, our soils are the largest carbon sink available. Even after all of our losses, our soils still hold more carbon than the atmosphere and biosphere combined. And while increased carbon in our oceans is causing harm by lowering the water’s pH, carbon in the soil makes our soils function better, holding more water and nutrients, and reducing flooding.

As we see our state move forward with its goal of transitioning to a clean energy economy by 2050, we remind legislators of the important role agriculture can play in our solution. This brings us to a triple win that helps farmers, protects water, and helps us adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our soils can do amazing things. When we take care of them, they take care of us in return. //

Catie Gregg coordinates our campaigns to expand the adoption of conservation cropping systems in Illinois.
We are so grateful to our generous network of members. Thank you!

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A special thank you to our members who have donated to the PRN Endowment as an investment in Illinois’ future.

Bruce Hannon

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A heartfelt thank you to our members who have pledged an annual gift of $1,000 or more to sustain the work of PRN.

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Kathy and Jonathan Sweedler
Cynthia and Clyde Sweet
Bonnie and Bob Switzer
Diane and Bob Szafroni
Mary Kay Soelecki and John Taft
Christopher Taylor
David TeWksbury
Amy McArthur and William Theisen
Traci Quigg Thomas
Michael Tilley
Christine and Jon Todd
Terry Tonielli
Marguerite Torrey
Kevin Tushaus
Patricia VerStrat
John Viebach
Roberta Volkman
Carl von Ende
Nancy Voss
Shirley Walker
Christy and Dan Walsh
Paula Enstrom and Joe Walsh
Charlotte Westcott
Colleen and William White
Yvette and Herb Whiteley
Jo McLain and Frank M. Wiesemann
Ellen and David Wilcox
Williams-Kim Family
Karen and Alex Winter-Nelson
Gretha Wolfe
Vicky and Scott Woodridge
Karen Decker
Mary Ellen and Jim DeClue
Sharon Derence
Brenda and Ron Dils
Bryan Duff
Clara Bosak-Schroeder and Joe Duncker,
in honor of their wedding
Bryan Dunne
Barbara Stanger and Duanne Dust
Joyce Eisol
Mindy and Jamie Ellis
Barbara and Terry England,
in memory of Robert “Bob” Raley
Tammy Soper and Eric Er1
 Ruth Ann and Charles Evans
Christine Favilla
Anna Feldner
Cherie and Bob Foster
Kim and Cynthia Fraser
Bridget and Kevin Freireich
Barb Fuller
Barb Geissler,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Linda and Kyle Gerlach,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Victoria Christensen and Gary Gladding,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Robin and Bruce Goertel
Sarah and Jim Graham
Angela Grendell
Barbara and Homer Gurlter
Jill and John Guisman
Cynthia and Robert Guthrie
Kathy Hadley
Shawn Hale
Jill and Bob Hamann
John Hamby
Kyle Hankey
Frances and Mitchell Harris
Sharon L. Hayes
Don and Babette Hiles
Jennifer Hill
Kay Hodson
Natalie Holden
Kaylie Honkala
Frans and Gerald Hoots
Kristian D. Hopkins
Rachel Rasmussen and Robert Hudson
Bruce Hutchings
Andrea Jackson
Naomi and Eric Jakobson
Elisabeth Jeniecik
Clare Johnson
Libby Johnston
Judith M. Joy
Barbara and Terry Judd
Al Kagan
Margaret Kane
Melody and Marty Kane
Lori Sommer and John Kanter
Rebecca Kasten
Jo and Doug Kibbee
Eva Pomerantz and Duane Kimmie
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Jennifer and Ed Kolodziej
Chris Korose
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Margaret Kutsunis
Ricky Lanhman
Ken Larimore
Dave Larson
Debbie Albano and Pete Leki
Greg Leston
Melanie Loors
Bluys Louis,
in honor of Amy Louis
Rebecca Luke
Andrea Stader and John Magney
Christopher Malin
Manley Mallard
Rebecca McBride
Susan and William McLane
Annette McMichael
Tara Bevertoth and Jason Meier
Anja Metz
George Miley
Joanne Miller
Carla Caceres and Craig Milling
Judy Mongold
Courtney Moravec
Raymond Mucha
Cara Finnegan and John Murphy
Erica Navar
Ann Nelson
Connie Nelson
Luke Nelson
Marcia and Randall Nelson
Sarah and Robert Nemeth
Ann and Stephen Nebhart
Carol Jo Morgan and Joe Niernberger
Raymond Norton
David Novak
Vickie and Brian Nudelman
Howard Oneal
Pamela Osborne
Jim Patt
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Sarka Petrikova
Jan and Wayne Polisch
Laurel and Scott Preece
Sarah Rae
Carolyn Raffensperger
Japhia Jayaasing-Ramukumar and Dave Ramukumar,
in honor of the Nugent family
Barb and Dale Rascher
Rob Ratz
Debbie Redenius
Stephen Reid
Paul Ricker
Marie Robbins-Forbes and Guy Forbes
Ann and Bob Romatik
Gil Rone
Umera Sadarzangani and Marilyn Ryan
Kent Salazar
John Sanford
Tracy Satterthwaite
Connie and Michael Schmidt
Kathleen and Mark Schoeffmann
Meredith Schroer
Joan and Peter Schuetz
Dennis M. Schwank
Kathleen Zuurkowski and James Simeone
Marianne Abbey-Smith and Campbell Smith
Cecily Smith
Greg Smith
Meredith Smith,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Lisa and Keith Snyder
Catherine M. Stanford
James Stephens
Beverly Stevens
Sally Stillwell
Jamie and Gary Storm,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Stan Summers
Zachary Sutton
Harriet P. Swager
Marcia and Robert Sychra
Sara Sychra
Nancy and John Taylor
Ron Thompson
Marilee Tilly
Kasey Umland
Paul B. Van Ness
Wayne L. Wagner, Jr.
Shirley Walker
Diane and James Wardrop
Sharon and Doug Welch
Barbara Welch and Rick Walsh
David Wilcoxen
Marilyn and Ed Willis
Phoebe Wintz
Tony Wong
Donald Wuebbles
Mary Ellen Wieland
Mary Clevering and Chuck Ziegler,
in memory of Sherry Weaver
Glenn Zipp
Inspire Change

Herbicide Injury Threaten Farms

We have been thinking a lot about food security and the importance of farmers who produce our food. Unfortunately, farmers who seek to grow in an ecologically sound and sensitive manner face many obstacles. Policy, law, and research funding often favor chemically-intensive industrial agriculture, not regenerative farming. This reality has been thrown into stark relief in recent years with the flood of complaints about off-target injuries caused by highly volatile herbicides such as dicamba and 2, 4-D.

Organic farmers, orchards, vegetable farms, and vineyards are seeing injuries such as curled, cupped, stunted, and deformed leaves and plants. Farmers can withstand only so much injury before the integrity of their crops and the health of their plants suffer. These herbicide injuries are a serious threat to many multi-generational family farms.

Record Number of Complaints

According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), official landowner and grower complaints of damage to crops and plants caused by the herbicide dicamba surpassed an astonishing 700 in Illinois last year, with many more injuries left unreported and undocumented. It is the same situation in many other states: record number of complaints and widespread under-reporting of injuries.

“We’re just running ourselves ragged, just trying to get out there and collect the evidence,” says Dave Scott, who is in charge of Indiana’s pesticide investigations. Nevertheless, state officials continue to offer inadequate protective measures, apparently more concerned with protecting chemical companies than protecting private property rights, specialty growers, and ecosystem health.

A recent lawsuit, however, has provided some hope for those harmed by drifting dicamba. A jury found Monsanto and Bayer liable for damages to a Missouri peach farmer for years of crop losses. The farmer was awarded $15 million for losses of 30,000 trees. Bayer/Monsanto was also hit with $250 million in punitive damages stemming from their bad actions in marketing the product.

Monsanto started selling its dicamba-tolerant seeds before the US EPA approved the herbicides for the market. The suit alleged that Monsanto knew that dicamba drift would damage crops and force neighboring farms to buy and plant Monsanto’s dicamba-resistant seeds so their crops would not be impacted by drifting herbicide.

“This verdict is just the tip of the iceberg — there is a long queue of farmers who have been impacted by dicamba drift and deserve their day in court,” said Linda Wells, Pesticide Action Network organizing director. “The internal Monsanto (now Bayer) documents uncovered in this case show that the company released a highly destructive and intentionally untested product onto the market, and used its influence to cheat the regulatory system.”

We are about to face yet another year of widespread use of dicamba and other highly volatile herbicides. However, the license for dicamba is up for renewal this year, and we are poised to fight it. Because our farms and food are vital to the health of our communities. But it is not just crops that are damaged.

Private Lands Injured Too

In recent years, we have received increased reports of plant and tree injury on both public and private lands, and these injuries are symptomatic of herbicide exposure. The big problem is that until recently no one has been monitoring what happens when these herbicides move beyond the farm field and into parks, forests, and rural communities. With the help of highly talented and dedicated PRN members, such as retired IDNR biologist Martin Kemper, we have been able to document symptoms of herbicide damage to trees and other non-target plants that provide critical resources for wildlife.

Kemper has been working with us and other members to develop a report based on two years’ worth of data from our Tree and Plant Health Monitoring Program. The report will

Kim Erndt-Pitcher provides technical and organizing expertise for pollinator habitat and regenerative agriculture programs downstate.

1 https://n.pr/2JGvW9W

Continued on Page 10
Most Endangered River

In April of 2019, American Rivers designated the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) as the third most endangered river in the United States. The designation came as a result of miles of levees being illegally raised and cutting off the Mississippi River from its floodplain. Ultimately, these actions increased flood risk for vulnerable communities up and down the river and severely degraded wildlife habitat.

This year, American Rivers has listed the UMR as #1 on America’s Most Endangered Rivers® list. Bad actors remain on the banks of the river, continuing to alter their levees without the proper approval and pushing flood waters on unsuspecting and unprepared communities.

But each issue along the Mighty Mississippi exacerbates another. The growing threat of climate change and extreme precipitation events make an already-restricted river overflow with water. Years of development have fundamentally altered the hydrology of the UMR, severing the river’s ties with acres upon acres of floodplain habitat. The issues build on one another, but this designation and these issues, both old and new, create a new opportunity.

This is a chance to develop a “Master Plan” for the UMR. The current system is “every person for themselves,” and there are very few instances where we have a holistic understanding of how one’s actions affect another. We can change that. The UMR is in dire need of a plan that creates common goals and recommendations for everyone. Only then can we begin to heal the river system and mitigate the risks of flooding and the effects of climate change.

Visit our website to make this call to action! //

Land from page 9

be released this spring. Our goal is to show that injuries are far more widespread than has been reported to IDOA and that we need to act now to protect our farms and ecosystems.

Your Help Needed

We need your help now more than ever. If you suspect damage to your trees, crops, pollinator habitat, etc., please document it. Visit our website at prairierivers.org/monitoring-tree-and-plant-health/ to learn how to file an injury complaint with IDOA as well as how to document suspected injuries through our monitoring database. You can use our online reporting form from your smartphone or desktop computer, just fill out the form, upload your photos of injured plants, and submit. Every bit of information helps. //

Annual Dinner

Save the Date!
October 23, 2020
(pending covid-19 status)
Stay tuned for updates

The State of Illinois is undertaking a process to update the Illinois State Water Plan (ISWP). The purpose of the plan is to provide policy and program guidance in water resources management. Decisions on agency action, funding, and legislation all flow from the plan, so it is a very important document. Illinois has not fully updated its state water plan since 1984, and much has changed in the intervening years.

It’s Time For An Update

Population, infrastructure, new threats to water quality and quantity. It is long past time that Illinois began thinking about how we protect and manage our precious water resources. Ensuring that Illinois has abundant clean, affordable water is vital to our quality of life and economy.

The emergence of climate change as the defining issue of our future only underscores the need for serious, strategic planning about the state’s water resources. Increased floods and droughts would put tremendous strain on our food and water systems. We need to be planning NOW.

The ISWP is a tremendous opportunity to shape our future and ensure we
Thank You, Eric!

Clark Bullard

After many years of faithful service and inspiring leadership, Eric Freyfogle has retired from the Prairie Rivers Network board of directors. He joined us at a time of transition, when we had only a staff of two, and he proceeded to guide us through two decades of institution building. He built our financial foundation by establishing our annual fundraising dinners, the Bruce Hannon Friends group of major donors, and our endowment. His world-renowned expertise in water law and wildlife law brought a big-picture perspective to strategic planning, and his financial expertise brought smart fiscal oversight to everyday operations. He served on various board committees, and at least one term as board chair. But most of all he will be fondly remembered by his fellow board members as the faithful secretary who wrote the best meeting minutes ever – more than 20 years’ worth, six of those as president – so we never forgot what we decided and why.

Eric is not going far, though. He is retiring to his Urbana home, not far from his Decatur roots. He will likely continue his scholarly writing about conservation ethics and the role of private property rights in nature. He continues to represent us on the National Wildlife Federation board of directors and remains engaged as a valued advisor to the staff and board of the organization he helped build. Good luck in your future endeavors, Eric!

Clean Energy Jobs Act

On March 4th, Prairie Rivers Network was there with many of you and over 700 advocates at the Springfield Capitol to rally in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA, SB2132/HB3624)! CEJA sets Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy by 2050, creates a carbon free power sector by 2030, reduces the number of gas and diesel vehicles from the transportation sector, and creates jobs and economic opportunity. CEJA is the only comprehensive bill in Springfield that addresses several urgent issues impacting our electricity rates, communities, economy, and environment. It provides a fix to Trump’s coal bailout in northern Illinois’ PJM capacity market, and it expands funding to prevent a roadblock in developing renewable energy projects in Illinois. CEJA will provide support for communities and workers impacted by coal’s rapid decline and most importantly, it will reduce carbon emissions and make Illinois a leader in fighting the climate crisis.
Become a Member or Renew Your Membership!

- $25 Student Membership
- $50 Basic Membership
- $1,000
- $500
- $250
- $100
- Other ______

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________
E-mail (to receive Action Alerts): ____________________________

Thank you for your tax deductible support!

Make checks payable to: Prairie Rivers Network, 1605 South State Street, Suite 1, Champaign, IL 61820

PRN Membership Levels

- Headwaters Circle $5,000
- River Champions $2,500-$4,999
- River Protectors $1,000-$2,499
- River Stewards $500-$999
- River Guardians $250-$499
- River Defenders $100-$249
- Members $1-$99

Tax Changes

CARES Act Provides Enhanced Tax Benefits for Your Gift to PRN

The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act that was recently passed into law provides new charitable giving incentives for 2020:

- For those that take the standard deduction, you may now receive a $300 above-the-line charitable deduction in addition to the standard deduction for donations made in 2020 (Section 2204 of Act).

- For those that itemize their deductions, the law lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for charitable giving for 2020. The Act permits a charitable contribution deduction for cash contributions of up to 100% of adjusted gross income rather than the cap of 60% (Section 2205 of Act).

Renew your membership!