



## **SUPPORT THE CLEAN AND RELIABLE GRID AFFORDABILITY ACT - SB2473/HB3779**

**Our country's electricity sector has undergone significant transformation over the last decade, yet federal and regional entities have been slow to ensure our power grid adapts and remains resilient and affordable amidst growing demand for energy and extreme weather events.** As ratepayers face price spikes on their utility bills and the Trump administration attacks clean energy progress nationwide, Illinois needs to build on the success of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) and take bold action to protect our power grid, ratepayers, and our climate.

### **The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act delivers bold action by:**

**Strengthening Energy Efficiency:** The cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy that is never used. Maximizing energy efficiency means using less energy to get the same job done. The CRGA Act strengthens energy efficiency by:

- Increasing access to rebates to weatherize homes and purchase efficient appliances like HVAC systems and water heaters.
- Increasing available funds for low-income efficiency programs to ensure families who need support the most can reduce their utility bills.

**Strengthening Our Power Grid:** A modern, efficient transmission system is critical to a reliable and clean grid. The CRGA Act would promote improvements to transmission infrastructure, maximize the amount of clean electricity power lines can carry, and reduce bottlenecks in the process to develop and improve transmission lines.

**Expanding Clean Energy Deployment:** Battery storage uses batteries to store electricity generated from renewable sources like solar and wind power, ensuring clean energy can be used even when the renewable source isn't actively producing energy. The CRGA Act launches:

- Energy Storage Procurement Program, which directs the IPA to create a long-term energy storage procurement plan to meet future goals.
- A "virtual power plant" initiative to pool thousands of small solar and storage projects to replace fossil plants
- Illinois Storage for All, which brings the benefits of batteries to income-eligible households, nonprofit organizations, and public facilities through the Illinois

**Supporting Transparent Energy Planning and Modeling:** The CRGA Act would create the IPA Office of Energy Modeling, which would strengthen energy policy-making, support the implementation of CEJA, and right-size our clean energy procurement targets to meet our energy needs. The CRGA Act also introduces transparent energy planning for municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives to strengthen local control, oversight, and democratic participation for the 1 million Illinoisans who get their electricity from a provider other than major utilities like ComEd and Ameren.

**Focusing on Customer Savings:** The CRGA Act prioritizes ratepayers by:

- Creating smart "time of use" electric rates so that customers can take full advantage when electricity costs are low
- Adopting uniform standards through the Solar Bill of Rights so that Illinoisans aren't prohibited from installing rooftop solar under local rules.
- Codifies support for low-income households with discounts applicable to their utility bills.
- Directing utilities to propose rules for new large-scale data centers to reduce strain on the power grid and ensure ratepayers don't bear the brunt of costs related to these industrial facilities.