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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 72

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(As Amended by Senate Amendment No. 2)

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WHEREAS, On February 29, 2012, Midwest Generation announced that it would retire its two Chicago power plants as the result of an agreement with the City of Chicago and Mayor Rahm Emanuel, which was reached in consultation with community groups and aldermen; and

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WHEREAS, Residents in communities neighboring these facilities, including Pilsen and Little Village, joined with a broad and diverse coalition of community, labor, health, faith, youth, and environmental organizations to form the Chicago Clean Power Coalition to advocate for the eventual retirement of these facilities as a part of a national transition to new energy sources; and

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WHEREAS, The Clean Power Coalition partners include the following organizations: 8th Day Center for Justice, 49th Ward Green Corps, Action Now, Aerotecture International Inc., American Renewable Energy & Power, LLC, American Medical Student Association-UIC, Blacks in Green, Bridgeport Alliance, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, CAPOW! Citizens Act to Protect Our Water, Chicago Youth Climate Coalition, Citizen Action/Illinois, Citizens Against Ruining the Environment, Citizens Committee for a Clean Blue Island, Collective

1 Consciousness Movement, Consolidated Printing, David Weiner &  
2 Associates, Design Makes Change, Doctors Council SEIU,  
3 Eco-Justice Collaborative, Energy Action Coalition,  
4 Environment Illinois, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Faith  
5 in Place, Gaia Movement USA, Green Guy Solutions, Green  
6 Sanctuary Group, Beverly Unitarian Church, Greenpeace, Growing  
7 Station Community Garden, KenJiva Energy Systems, Illinois  
8 Solar Energy Association, Illinois Student Environmental  
9 Coalition, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization,  
10 Loyola University's Student Environmental Alliance, Natural  
11 Resources Defense Council, Nuclear Energy Information Service,  
12 Oikos: The Religion and Environment Initiative, Peace  
13 Productions, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Pilsen  
14 Alliance, Pilsen Environmental Rights & Reform Organization,  
15 Progressive Democrats of America, Protestants for the Common  
16 Good, Rainforest Action Network Chicago, Ravenswood Community  
17 Council, Resource Center, Respiratory Health Association of  
18 Metropolitan Chicago, Sierra Club, Southeast Environmental  
19 Task Force, Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation,  
20 SolAir Works, Inc., SAIC Student Environmental Activism Group,  
21 Students for a Just and Stable Future at the University of  
22 Chicago, Team 15 United, Topless America, Union of Concerned  
23 Scientists, Community Action Program at the UIC College of  
24 Medicine, Urban Sustain, Wellington Avenue UCC, and Windy City  
25 Green Power; and

1           WHEREAS, The timing of the decision to retire these  
2 facilities, and the schedule for the retirement of these  
3 facilities, was the result of a process initiated by Mayor  
4 Emanuel; and

5           WHEREAS, Midwest Generation and the City of Chicago have  
6 entered into an agreement finding that the timetable for the  
7 retirement of these facilities achieves the objectives of the  
8 proposed Chicago Clean Power Ordinance; and

9           WHEREAS, The closure of these facilities will help the City  
10 of Chicago and the State of Illinois achieve their clean air  
11 goals; and

12           WHEREAS, The process undertaken by Midwest Generation and  
13 the City of Chicago included community, public health, and  
14 environmental groups, which agreed not to pursue certain  
15 pending litigation against Midwest Generation; and

16           WHEREAS, Once operations at these facilities cease,  
17 Midwest Generation will maintain the facilities in a safe and  
18 prudent manner as redevelopment opportunities and funding are  
19 explored; therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the  
2 community residents and organizations of Pilsen and Little  
3 Village in Chicago, the Chicago Clean Power Coalition, and  
4 Midwest Generation for their work and leadership in reaching  
5 the agreed resolution to retire coal-fired power plants at the  
6 Fisk and Crawford stations in accordance with the goals and  
7 objectives of the proposed Chicago Clean Power Ordinance; and  
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we support the ongoing efforts to determine  
10 clean, new uses for these facilities and to transition these  
11 facilities to uses that improve the quality of life in these  
12 communities; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge that thousands of  
14 hard-working and dedicated men and women have worked at these  
15 facilities since the early 1900s, producing the electricity  
16 that was essential to build the City of Chicago; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor and the agencies of the  
19 State of Illinois to support efforts to retire these facilities  
20 and to transition these facilities into uses that improve the  
21 quality of life in the communities in which they are located;  
22 and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 presented to the Governor, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Midwest  
3 Generation, the Little Village Environmental Justice  
4 Organization, the Pilsen Alliance, the Pilsen Environmental  
5 Rights and Reform Organization, and the members of the Chicago  
6 Clean Power Coalition.