

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

I write to request information regarding the Department of Energy's handling of accelerating electricity demand and the federal policy choices that are slowing the deployment of clean resources needed to keep the grid reliable and electricity affordable for Illinois families and businesses.

A new 2025 Resource Adequacy Study prepared jointly by the Illinois Power Agency (IPA), the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) warns that the regional grids serving Illinois are projected to face capacity shortfalls unless new resources are developed and interconnected on faster timelines than the status quo delivers.¹ The study finds the PJM Interconnection (PJM) and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)—the two regional transmission organizations responsible for operating the wholesale electricity system across much of Illinois—are each projected to experience system-wide capacity shortfalls beginning later this decade.²

The study makes clear the core problem is not a lack of proposed clean energy projects, but the inability to bring new resources online on schedule. This crisis has only worsened under the Trump Administration, as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act eliminates solar and wind tax credits, clean energy projects are being cancelled nationwide, and energy development is bogged down in red tape. The Department of Energy has chosen to expand dependence on fossil fuels, while retreating from renewable energy investments, abandoning the very projects that have proven essential to keeping energy prices steady. In 2024, wind and solar accounted for 93 percent of the new electricity added to the U.S. power grid, making them among the most cost-effective energy sources available today. Turning away from these investments has driven up household energy costs and slowed the deployment of much needed energy projects across the state.

Even with substantial volumes of new projects in interconnection queues, Trump administration policies have made it more difficult and burdensome to maintain these projects or bring them online. These bottlenecks have led to a standstill, and the study projects that PJM will begin experiencing a capacity shortfall in 2029, with MISO following shortly thereafter.³ When realistic development delays are applied, those shortfalls appear earlier and grow more severe.⁴

Illinois' largest load zone in PJM—the ComEd zone—illustrates the direct risk to consumers when clean resources cannot be added in time. The study reports that ComEd's resource adequacy requirements rise by 24 percent between 2025 and 2030 and that the zone begins relying on imports starting in 2030.⁵ The study also

¹ [Illinois Power Agency et al., 2025 Resource Adequacy Study – Executive Summary \(Dec. 15, 2025\)](#)

² [Id.](#)

³ [Illinois Power Agency et al., 2025 Resource Adequacy Study \(Dec. 15, 2025\)](#)

⁴ [Id.](#)

⁵ [Id.](#)

cautions that if the broader regional grids are short on capacity, Illinois cannot depend on neighboring zones for imports during critical hours.⁶

The high demand for power, coupled with the limited growth in energy projects and a worsening grid has led to sky-rocketing costs for Illinois consumers. In Illinois, electricity costs have increased a whopping 14.4% since January 2025. These price hikes have caused 14 million Americans to fall behind on their energy bills, where they face the threat of disconnection. In Chicago, the Citizens Utility Board reports that the number of people calling with disconnection notices has risen 70% in the last year. It is outrageous that electricity prices have climbed so high that hard-working Americans are going into debt to heat their homes and keep their families safe.

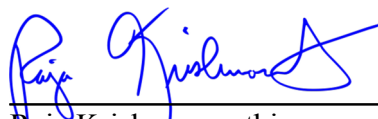
The Department of Energy's role in this outcome is unavoidable. The study warns that rolling back or weakening incentives created by the Inflation Reduction Act has significant implications for reliability and consumer costs and may increase delivered electricity prices by as much as 7 to 10 percent by the end of the decade.⁷ Reporting has likewise described how uncertainty surrounding clean energy tax incentives and federal execution delays can stall projects and raise energy bills.⁸

Accordingly, please provide responses to the following questions no later than January 20, 2026:

1. What actions has the Department taken since January 2025 to reduce interconnection and permitting delays affecting utility-scale wind, solar, battery storage, and transmission projects in PJM and MISO?
2. What analyses has the Department conducted regarding how changes to Inflation Reduction Act implementation affect clean energy investment and project timelines?
3. What steps has the Department taken to coordinate with PJM and MISO to address the bottlenecks identified in the Illinois Resource Adequacy Study?
4. Does the Department agree with the study's finding that rolling back Inflation Reduction Act incentives may raise electricity prices by 7 to 10 percent? If not, please provide the Department's alternative estimate and methodology.
5. Please provide all Department documents, memoranda, or analyses since January 2025 assessing reliability or consumer cost impacts associated with delayed clean energy deployment.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁶ [Id.](#)

⁷ [Id.](#)

⁸ [Reuters, "Trump tax bill squeeze on clean power could raise energy bills," June 10, 2025.](#)