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ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY
GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND AGENCY
LISTENING SESSION

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the Illinois
Finance Authority HELD IN PERSON and VIA AUDIO and
VIDEO CONFERENCE, on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at
7:00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

PRESENT VIA AUDIO AND VIDEO CONFERENCE:

CHAIRMAN WILLIAM HOBERT
VICE CHAIR ROXANNE NAVA

MEMBER ROGER POOLE
MEMBER AMEYA PAWAR

ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY STAFF:

MARK MEYER, Assistant Secretary
CHRISTOPHER MEISTER, Executive Director

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Good evening.
2 This is Chris Meister. I'm the Executive Director
3 of the Illinois Finance Authority. I would like to
4 call this agency listening session to order.

5 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Good evening.
6 This is Mark Meyer, Associate General Counsel of
7 the Authority. Today's date is Thursday,
8 November 17, 2022, and this agency listening
9 session has been called to order by Executive
10 Director Meister at the time of 7:00 p.m. We'll
11 remain open up to 120 minutes from now or until
12 everyone has had an opportunity to speak.

13 This is a listening session only and
14 is being conducted via video and audio conference.

15 Staff of the Authority, consistent
16 with the Authority's designation as the Climate
17 Bank of the State of Illinois under Illinois law,
18 are holding this agency listening session regarding
19 the Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA, which amended
20 the Clean Air Act to create a new program through
21 the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
22 US EPA; the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, or GGRF.
23 This is a first-of-its-kind federal program -- this
24 first-of-its-kind federal program will provide

1 competitive grants to mobilize financing and
2 leverage project capital for clean energy and
3 climate projects that reduce greenhouse gas
4 emissions -- with an emphasis on projects that
5 benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities --
6 and further the Biden-Harris Administration's
7 commitment to environmental justice.

8 Executive Director Chris Meister is
9 currently with me in the Authority's Chicago office
10 at the physical location of this listening session
11 and participating via video and audio conference.
12 Some guests and staff are similarly at the location
13 of the meeting and participating via video and
14 audio conference while some guests and staff will
15 attend this meeting solely via video or audio
16 conference.

17 As we take the roll calls, the
18 response of the guests and staff will be taken as
19 an indication that they can hear all discussion and
20 testimony.

21 Since this is an agency listening
22 session, I will recognize the guest members and
23 staff who are present. Please respond with
24 "present" when I call your name.

1 Guest Vice Chair and Member Nava.

2 VICE CHAIR NAVA: Present.

3 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Guest Member
4 Pawar.

5 MEMBER PAWAR: Present. You're going to hear
6 my dogs. So sorry.

7 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Guest Member
8 Poole.

9 MEMBER POOLE: Present.

10 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: And Illinois
11 Finance Authority Executive Director Chris Meister.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Present.

13 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Illinois Finance
14 Authority IT manager Rob Litchfield.

15 MR. LITCHFIELD: Present.

16 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Renee, please
17 state your -- our intern Renee is also present
18 today. Renee, can you spell your last name for the
19 court reporter.

20 MS. GIRARD: Girard, G-i-r-a-r-d.

21 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Thank you. Before
22 we begin making our way through -- oh, and guest
23 Chair and Member of the Authority Will Hobert.

24 CHAIR HOBERT: Present.

1 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: I am also present.

2 Before we begin making our way
3 through today's session, I would like to request
4 that each speaker mute their audio when possible to
5 eliminate any background noise unless you are
6 speaking, answering a question, or otherwise
7 providing any comments for the record. If you are
8 participating via video, please use the mute button
9 found on your task bar on the bottom of your
10 screen. You will be able to see the control bar by
11 moving your mouse or touching the screen of your
12 tablet.

13 For any Guest Member, staff, or
14 anyone from the public participating via phone, to
15 mute and unmute your line, you may press *6 on your
16 keypad if you do not have that feature on your
17 phone.

18 As a reminder, we are being recorded
19 and a court reporter is transcribing today's
20 listening session. For the consideration of the
21 court reporter, I would also like to ask that each
22 speaker state their name before speaking or
23 otherwise providing any comments for the record.

24 Finally, I would like to confirm that

1 all members of the public attending via video or
2 audio conference can hear this meeting clearly.
3 Guest Vice Chair Nava, can you confirm that this
4 video and audio conference is clearly heard at your
5 remote location?

6 VICE CHAIR NAVA: Yes, I can confirm that I
7 can hear everything just fine from my remote
8 location. Thank you.

9 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Great. I am
10 physically present in the conference room on the
11 10th floor of 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago,
12 Illinois, and I can confirm that I can hear all
13 discussions at the physical location of this
14 listening session and the remote participants that
15 have spoken thus far. The agenda for this
16 listening session was posted on this floor and on
17 the first floor and on the Authority's website as
18 of last Thursday, November 10, 2022.

19 If any member of the public
20 participating via video or audio conference finds
21 that they cannot hear these proceedings clearly,
22 please call (312) 651-1300 or write info@il-fa.com
23 immediately to let us know, and we will endeavor to
24 solve the audio issue.

1 CHAIR HOBERT: This is Will Hobert. Thank
2 you, Mark.

3 Welcome to this second time that
4 we've conducted an agency listening session. As
5 you have heard, this evening's topic is the
6 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The GGRF is an
7 important opportunity for the Authority in our
8 State statutory role as the Climate Bank and for
9 Illinois as a whole.

10 The GGRF is a new program, and the
11 federal government is in the process of shaping it.
12 The amount of the GGRF money that the federal
13 government will be distributing nationally is
14 estimated to be as large as \$27 billion, and the
15 timeline of such funding is aggressive. In our
16 view, the GGRF purposes are consistent with the
17 purposes of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs
18 Act, or CEJA, specifically the goals of putting a
19 million electric vehicles on Illinois roads by
20 2030, reaching 100 percent clean energy in Illinois
21 by 2050, and while prioritizing job creation,
22 training, placement reflecting the diversity of
23 Illinois.

24 Importantly, US EPA is conducting its

1 own public engagement efforts. So our work today
2 merely complements US EPA's public engagement
3 efforts. However, as the Authority shapes its
4 approach to compete for limited GGRF funds, the
5 Authority wants to hear as many voices as possible.
6 For that reason, we will limit each guest's
7 statement to three minutes, and an e-mail address
8 has been provided for written comments. We
9 encourage everybody to participate both by showing
10 up today and by e-mail. We thank everyone for your
11 interest in this listening session and for taking
12 time out of your day.

13 Before I ask Chris to provide a brief
14 overview of the GGRF opportunity, I turn to my
15 colleagues for a brief statement: Members Nava,
16 Pawar, and Poole.

17 Member Nava?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Vice Chair Nava,
19 would you like to share any thoughts?

20 VICE CHAIR NAVA: I'm sorry. What?

21 CHAIR HOBERT: Would you like to share any
22 thoughts before we get started?

23 VICE CHAIR NAVA: No. This is Vice Chair
24 Roxanne Nava, and I'm good. Thank you so much.

1 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you.

2 Member Pawar or Member Poole?

3 MEMBER POOLE: Go ahead.

4 MEMBER PAWAR: Thank you, Member Hobert.

5 Thank you everyone for joining us tonight. I just
6 wanted to quickly say that Section 134 of the
7 Inflation Reduction Act is an opportunity to inject
8 much needed private capital into low-income and
9 disadvantaged communities around the state of
10 Illinois; improve the health of those communities
11 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and do so
12 that is consistent with the governor's goals and
13 the Clean Energy Jobs Act and in a manner that
14 reflects the diversity of Illinois. So thank you
15 all for being here tonight, and I'm excited to hear
16 what everyone has to say. Thank you. Back to you,
17 Chair Hobert.

18 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Member Pawar.

19 Member Poole?

20 MEMBER POOLE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm very
21 excited to be part of this -- the opportunity to do
22 this as a member of the IFA, being a member of
23 organized labor for a long -- longer than I want to
24 really admit. But the opportunity of this

1 Section 134 is as exciting for the fact that how it
2 will prevail in the state, move jobs,
3 progressiveness, move jobs and opportunities for
4 organized labor and their members, men/women of the
5 labor movement. This is as dynamite a program that
6 I just can't say much more about it other than the
7 fact that it's exciting to be a part of it and the
8 IFA has an opportunity to participate in it at the
9 level they are. Thank you.

10 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you very much.

11 Chris, over to you.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Thank you very
13 much, Chair Hobert. For the stakeholders, we
14 posted on our website a stakeholder memo, which
15 importantly contains links to various US EPA
16 websites, including the Environmental Financial
17 Advisory Board, which met earlier today, and so
18 they have even more information posted on their
19 website.

20 We also have a complete copy of the
21 statute, which, fortunately, for federal law is
22 fairly short. It's about two-plus pages. And I'm
23 just going to -- I'm just going to cover it very,
24 very briefly because there is a lot of information

1 that EPA is continually updating. And in the
2 stakeholder memo there are various dates. There
3 was an addition. And as Will said, our work
4 complements the work of the EPA in gathering public
5 input. It's our intent to submit this information
6 to the EPA to help them shape the 134 GGRF program.

7 So, importantly, there are three
8 buckets of money under 134. There's what's known
9 as zero-emission technologies. It's up to
10 \$7 billion. It is open to states, municipalities,
11 tribal governments, and eligible recipients, a
12 defined term of art in 134 that is a nonprofit
13 organization that has the ability to make
14 investments -- direct investments and indirect
15 investments -- in qualified projects at the state,
16 regional, and local levels.

17 But the zero-emission technology
18 \$7 billion is designed to enable and benefit low
19 and -- low-income and disadvantaged communities
20 take advantage of zero-emission technologies,
21 including those on residential rooftops. So that's
22 Category 1.

23 There is a remaining \$20 billion that
24 is open to, again, the eligible entities that I

1 just described and that's identified in the
2 statute. There's up to \$12 billion in financial
3 and technical assistance. And then there is a
4 billion dollars specifically for low-income and
5 disadvantaged communities.

6 Again, we look forward to hearing
7 what folks have to say. And this is a listening
8 session. And the instructions for the attendees
9 who wish to speak on the record, as has been
10 mentioned, anybody participating via video, please
11 indicate your desire to speak by using the "Raise
12 Your Hand" function. Click on the "Raise Hand"
13 option at the center of your control bar at the
14 bottom of your screen. You will be able to see the
15 task bar by moving your mouse or touching the
16 screen on your tablet.

17 If any attendee is participating by
18 phone, please indicate your desire to speak by
19 using the "Raise Hand" function by pressing *9.

20 For each attendee, again, as Will
21 mentioned, please limit your speaking to three
22 minutes or less. We will use a timer so that we
23 get as many speakers as possible. You will not be
24 called upon a second time. However, the member

1 guests may wish to ask questions of any attendee
2 speaker. We will stop the timer for any
3 question-and-answer exchanges.

4 If any attendee is inappropriate or
5 unprofessional, you will be removed from the
6 meeting. Should you wish to submit comments in
7 writing, the e-mail is webmaster@il-fa.com. And
8 we'll keep that open until 5 p.m. on Friday,
9 November the 18th, 2022.

10 The session is being recorded. We
11 have a court reporter who is transcribing this
12 evening's discussion. So when you are called upon,
13 please slowly state and spell your name so that the
14 court reporter can accurately record it.

15 For the record, Rob Litchfield is
16 running our technical resources, and he is
17 available to help manage the queue along with Mark.
18 So thank you very much. The court-reported
19 transcription and recording of last Thursday's
20 listening session has already been posted on the
21 Authority's website.

22 Back to you, Will.

23 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Chris. This is Will
24 Hobert. Rob, if I could ask you and Chris to work

1 together to queue and call upon the attendee
2 speakers. We will work to have as many attendee
3 speakers as possible, and this session will run a
4 full 120 minutes if needed. Rob, do you have any
5 attendee speakers ready?

6 MR. LITCHFIELD: Yes. There's three queued to
7 speak. So our first one is Joe Duffy.

8 MR. DUFFY: Hi. Can you hear me?

9 CHAIR HOBERT: Yes.

10 MR. DUFFY: Hi. Good evening, everyone. My
11 name is Joe Duffy. That's D-u-f-f-y. Thank you so
12 much for the opportunity to speak today. I am the
13 executive director of Climate Jobs Illinois. We
14 are a coalition that is governed by the Illinois
15 AFL-CIO, the Chicago Federation of Labor, as well
16 as the Cook County construction and building
17 trades.

18 In addition to that, we have 12
19 different labor affiliates across the state. And
20 we were created back in 2020 in advance of the
21 negotiations around the Climate Equitable Jobs Act.
22 And our organization was successful in terms of
23 securing the strongest labor standards in the
24 country on the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that

1 requires project labor agreements in all utility
2 scale wind and solar, as well as prevailing wage on
3 projects that receive renewable energy credits
4 outside of residential solar and some houses of
5 worship.

6 And we are very excited. I want to
7 echo what Member Poole said regarding the Inflation
8 Reduction Act and why we think certain funds can be
9 allocated and really benefit the state of Illinois
10 as well as workers across the state of Illinois and
11 decarbonize our state's economy due to the work
12 that we were able to do in CEJA and what the
13 Inflation Reduction Act does to complement that
14 work that we all worked on over the last couple
15 years.

16 And I also want to echo -- I was on
17 the previous recording last week -- what a friend
18 and colleague of ours that we work very closely
19 with at Hire360, Deborah Whitaker. She made some
20 comments last week related to funds going to Black
21 contractors as well as the work that they're doing
22 at Hire360's diversified construction and building
23 trades. Very much is important to our coalition,
24 Climate Jobs Illinois, and our affiliates in labor

1 across the state of Illinois.

2 And then there's two other pieces
3 that I think are really important where money
4 secured through this Green Bank can really benefit
5 Illinois and really benefit and hit the goals that
6 the Green Bank is seeking to accomplish. One of
7 which is putting this money towards workforce
8 development in the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.
9 There's three workforce development hubs in
10 Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois: The
11 ClimateWorks preapprenticeship program that is in
12 the process of being implemented by the Department
13 of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, that would
14 set up preapprenticeship programs to get people
15 prepared to take the test to get into an
16 apprenticeship program for the various construction
17 and building trades in clean energy. We think that
18 that money would be very well spent to prop up
19 those organizations and build upon the work that
20 Hire360 has done in Chicago.

21 MR. LITCHFIELD: Joe, you have 30 seconds or
22 less.

23 MR. DUFFY: Sounds good.

24 And then in addition to that, it's

1 towards carbon-free healthy schools. In the CEJA
2 there is 15 percent of their mobile energy credits
3 toward going to solar on schools as well as energy
4 efficiency audits focused on Tier 1 and Tier 2
5 environmental justice schools.

6 So we think it would be very
7 beneficial to have that money towards amplifying
8 solar on schools, decarbonizing schools, and
9 electric school buses as well.

10 Thank you so much for your time.

11 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Joe. We appreciate
12 your time and your thoughts.

13 Rob, it looks like next up -- who is
14 next in the queue?

15 MR. LITCHFIELD: Mike Genin or Genin.

16 CHAIR HOBERT: Hi, Mike.

17 MR. GENIN: Hello. Can you hear me?

18 CHAIR HOBERT: Yes.

19 MR. GENIN: Thank you, Chair Hobert, Members
20 of the Illinois Finance Authority, the staff for
21 the opportunity to testify on the Greenhouse Gas
22 Reduction Fund.

23 My name is Mike, last name is
24 G-e-n-i-n, Genin. And I'm representing the

1 Illinois Municipal Utility Association, also known
2 as IMUA, and the Illinois Municipal Electric
3 Agency, also known as the IMEA. We have worked
4 well with the IFA in the past with regard to
5 emergency loan financing for municipal gas systems
6 during the winter storm Uri. We would like to
7 again thank you, Chair Hobert, and the IFA again
8 for their quick action and urgent necessary relief
9 during that time frame.

10 The IMA is a nonprofit joint action
11 agency providing wholesale power to 32 municipal
12 electric systems in the state. And the IMUA is the
13 advocacy organization representing all 42 municipal
14 electric systems in Illinois. We are nonprofit
15 utilities, and well over a majority of our
16 municipal electric systems are in low-income or
17 rural downstate communities. We would welcome the
18 opportunity to potentially to work with the IFA on
19 the GGRF and help many of these folks benefit from
20 increased electric vehicles on their roads in
21 reaching the state's 100 percent clean energy goal
22 by 2050.

23 Our organizations are uniquely
24 positioned and qualified to enable these municipal

1 electric utilities and, as a result, their
2 communities that benefit from the new zero-emission
3 technologies or the reduction of greenhouse gas
4 emission technologies. We already administer 19
5 programs that support energy efficiency and
6 electric vehicle incentives.

7 If the IFA is able to secure the GGRF
8 funds and if we were to have the prospect
9 department with the IFA, then we can expand our
10 programs to offer new incentives and opportunities
11 that would not necessarily be available without
12 financial assistance. Examples could include
13 offering customers incentives or rebates for
14 high-efficiency heat pumps, efficient appliances,
15 weatherization options, and opportunities to
16 accelerate the transition to carbon-free vehicle
17 fleets.

18 We also have experience in developing
19 renewable projects such as wind and solar. We
20 could use this experience to potentially offer the
21 opportunity of community-based solar for municipal
22 customers as well as other zero-emission or
23 greenhouse gas reduction technologies.

24 In conclusion, thank you for your

1 consideration. Thank you for representing Illinois
2 in assessing GGRF funds. And thank you for the
3 opportunity to speak today. Thank you.

4 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Mike. We appreciate
5 your time and your thoughts.

6 Next up, Rob, is it Tracy?

7 MR. LITCHFIELD: Tracy Fox.

8 CHAIR HOBERT: Hi, Tracy.

9 MS. FOX: Hi. Thanks to the Director, board
10 members, and staff who are holding this evening's
11 session. It is much appreciated.

12 I have been a community volunteer in
13 the Peoria area for many years and got involved
14 with energy policy as it was pretty closely
15 intertwined with our fight to clean up pollution at
16 the Edwards Coal Plant. And that led me to be
17 pretty involved with some of the legislative
18 drafting done by the Clean Jobs Coalition on CEJA.

19 And the way that CEJA is drafted,
20 there's a real opportunity to do not one but two or
21 three things with the Greenhouse Gas Reduction
22 Fund. I certainly think that the IFA is well
23 positioned to carry part of that load, but I also
24 think there's an important place for smaller, more

1 culturally sensitive banking sorts of things such
2 as what was envisioned in the CEJA Jobs and Justice
3 Fund. And so I hope that as IFA moves forward it
4 will think about a role for both banking options as
5 well as ways that it can lift up not just the
6 couple of programs called out by CJI and Mr. Duffy,
7 but the full range of CEJA programs. I would hope
8 that IFA would coordinate with the Illinois Power
9 Authority as well as DCEO to see how the full suite
10 of programs might benefit from this extra funding.

11 I also just want to dig a little bit
12 to why I think multiple banking options are needed,
13 and the first has to do with target audiences.

14 CEJA and the parts of it that I worked on,
15 including the Jobs and Justice Fund, really focused
16 on the needs of very small contractors and new
17 entrance into the clean energy field. And they're
18 very targeted to try to bring people who have been
19 shut out before into clean energy. And that would
20 be people in environmental justice, people in
21 cannabis-ravaged communities, people coming out of
22 the prison system, and people who are foster care
23 alums.

24 I think the banking relationship is

1 needed to help that. I'm sure folks who could
2 benefit from the jobs, who could benefit from the
3 opportunity is going to look pretty different from
4 what IFA typically deals with, and I think it's
5 good to have multiple doors. These folks, a lot of
6 them are used to not having good access to
7 capital --

8 MR. LITCHFIELD: 30 seconds left.

9 MS. FOX: -- of having pretty fraught banking
10 relationships. So I think that duplication is
11 important.

12 I also think it's important because
13 it allows you to do different types of projects.
14 Small projects that appear in neighborhoods of the
15 appropriate purview, of a smaller entity like the
16 Jobs and Justice Fund where answering questions
17 like what's the urban equivalent of a wind farm,
18 something that the south side of Peoria District
19 Council people ask me all the time. Those are the
20 purview of things the IFA would be well positioned
21 to address.

22 And, finally, I ask you not to solve
23 isolated and outdated projects or problems.
24 Instead, try to position IFA, its efforts are

1 overall greenhouse gas reduction efforts and
2 solving the problems of everyday people, the need
3 for clean air, the need for low-cost energy, and
4 also to position Illinois to catch the next wave.
5 We don't need to be propping up ethanol plants with
6 additional carbon piping and working on solutions
7 that are only going to be good for 20 to 30 years.

8 IFA is in the --

9 MR. LITCHFIELD: Your time is up.

10 MS. FOX: Okay. You have the experience to
11 look beyond the obvious solutions, and I encourage
12 you to do so.

13 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Tracy. We
14 appreciate your thoughts.

15 Rob, do we have anyone else in the
16 queue?

17 MR. LITCHFIELD: No, that's it. No speakers.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEYER: Will, I think
19 Roxanne has got a comment.

20 CHAIR HOBERT: Great. Roxanne?

21 VICE CHAIR NAVA: Thank you, Chair Hobert.

22 So I just wanted to add to the great
23 comments. This is really unprecedented times both
24 in terms to the potential for the funding and

1 aggressiveness of the implementation schedule. So
2 I appreciate hearing everyone speak. You know,
3 it's important for all of us -- grant applicants,
4 grant recipients -- because we know that it's
5 important to do this right, it's important to be
6 inclusive, it's important to be equitable because I
7 believe the world is watching us.

8 I'm glad all the speakers were
9 constructive, and they were on the same page of
10 being inclusive and equitable. And we look forward
11 to hearing from everybody so that we can all move
12 forward together. Thank you, Chair Hobert.

13 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Member Nava.
14 Appreciate those thoughts.

15 Rob, do we still have nobody in the
16 queue?

17 MR. LITCHFIELD: Nobody in the queue.

18 CHAIR HOBERT: Okay.

19 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Again, this is --
20 are we ready to adjourn? This is Mark Meyer.
21 Executive Director --

22 MR. LITCHFIELD: Wait. We have someone logged
23 in as "staff liaison."

24 MS. BECKER: Apologies. I'm using a work Zoom

1 account. My name is Lauren Becker, and I'm with
2 the City of Carbondale, Illinois.

3 CHAIR HOBERT: Hi, Lauren. Please take up to
4 three minutes and let us know your thoughts.

5 MS. BECKER: My thoughts will be short and
6 sweet. I just want to make sure that I take this
7 time that you've provided for us to echo the
8 sentiments of a previous speaker. Coming from the
9 perspective of a municipal employee, I cannot
10 stress enough the importance of small projects and
11 the importance of projects that focus on
12 strengthening the resilience of our neighborhood.

13 So a previous speaker had mentioned
14 this opportunity as an avenue for us to focus on
15 the new wave, catching the new wave. So I just
16 want to stress that our community is also looking
17 to catch the new wave, not additional carbon
18 piping. We want to be preparing ourselves to be
19 resilient and focusing on energy sovereignty and
20 energy security in this new age.

21 And we welcome the opportunity for
22 municipal governments to pursue power that we can
23 own ourselves, pursue power that focuses on
24 providing those of us who are low income or

1 disadvantaged with an opportunity to get a head
2 start, get a jump because, believe it or not,
3 utilities in and of themselves can make or break a
4 family's monthly budget.

5 So I just want to add those thoughts
6 coming from the perspective of a municipal staff
7 member. And I appreciate your time. Thank you
8 very much.

9 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Lauren. We
10 appreciate your time and your thoughts.

11 Rob, anybody else in the queue?

12 MR. LITCHFIELD: No.

13 CHAIR HOBERT: Okay.

14 MR. LITCHFIELD: Wait. Spoke too soon.
15 There's Jane -- is it Cogie?

16 MS. COGIE: Yeah, I'm Jane Cogie. I'm a
17 member of the Sustainability Commission of
18 Carbondale. Can you hear me?

19 CHAIR HOBERT: Yes. Please go ahead, Jane.

20 MS. COGIE: Thank you. Thank you. Yeah, I
21 don't really have prepared remarks except I endorse
22 what two of the speakers mentioned about need for
23 small projects. One of the main impetus for the
24 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act is to have clean

1 energy accessible to all, but also to have clean
2 jobs across the state. And having the equity
3 portion of CEJA for solar developers as well as for
4 workforce training would involve having the green
5 fund available -- configured so it's available to
6 folks in those locations across the state. And I
7 can speak definitely for Southern Illinois and need
8 for jobs, and we definitely have low-income folks
9 who would benefit from those jobs as well as from
10 them having solar on their house.

11 I also -- I guess I want to be sure
12 that funding for projects that involve pipelines to
13 sequester carbon from ethanol plants or elsewhere
14 is not in the spirit of moving on to new generation
15 of clean energy. It's reinforcing the past and
16 fossil fuels. Nothing wrong with fossil fuels, but
17 we need to move beyond them at this point.

18 So I will write a written comment in
19 addition to this, but I do want to at least speak
20 out on this level -- this general level to endorse
21 that focus on local and clean alternative fuels.

22 Thank you so much for your time.
23 It's terrific that all this financing is available,
24 will be available through the green fund, and we

1 want to make the best of it. Thanks so much.

2 CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Jane. We appreciate
3 your time and your thoughts.

4 Rob, anyone else in the queue?

5 MR. LITCHFIELD: No, no other speakers.

6 CHAIR HOBERT: Okay. Well, Joe, Mike, Tracy,
7 Lauren, and Jane, we appreciate your time and
8 sharing your thoughts with us.

9 Member Pawar, Nava, and Poole, we
10 appreciate your time for joining in as well, as
11 well as staff in the room and Rob. Thank you.
12 With that, Mark.

13 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER: Again, this is
14 Mark Meyer. The time is 7:32 p.m., and this agency
15 listening session is adjourned.

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2 COUNTY OF COOK) SS:
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4 Valerie Calabria, CSR, RPR, being
5 first duly sworn, on oath says that she is a court
6 reporter doing business in the State of Illinois;
7 and that she reported in shorthand the proceedings
8 of said meeting; and that the foregoing is a true
9 and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so
10 taken as aforesaid, and contains the proceedings
11 given at said meeting.

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15 VALERIE CALABRIA, CSR, RPR
16 License No. 84-003928
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