

1 ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY  
2 FEDERAL FUNDING LISTENING SESSION

3 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the Federal  
4 Funding Listening Session of the Illinois Finance  
5 Authority HELD IN PERSON and VIA AUDIO- and  
6 VIDEOCONFERENCE on Thursday, November 10th, 2022, at  
7 11:00 a.m., pursuant to notice.

8  
9 PRESENT VIA AUDIO- AND VIDEOCONFERENCE AND/OR IN  
10 PERSON:

11 GUEST CHAIR WILL HOBERT

12 GUEST MEMBER ARLENE JURACEK

13 GUEST MEMBER AMEYA PAWAR

14 GUEST MEMBER ROGER POOLE

15 CHRISTOPHER MEISTER, Executive Director

16 MARK MEYER, Associate General Counsel

17 ROB LITCHFIELD, IFA IT Expert

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

5 Assistant General Counsel Mark Meyer?

6 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Good morning.  
7 This is Mark Meyer, Associate General Counsel of the  
8 Authority. Today's date is Thursday, November 10th,  
9 2022. This agency listening session has been called  
10 to order by Executive Director Meister at the time  
11 of 11:01 a.m. and will remain open until 12:01 p.m.;  
12 60 minutes from now.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 Guest Member Juracek?

1 GUEST MEMBER JURACEK: Here. Present.

2 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Guest Member  
3 Pawar?

4 GUEST MEMBER PAWAR: Present.

5 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Guest Member  
6 Poole?

7 GUEST MEMBER POOLE: Present.

8 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Executive  
9 Director Chris Meister?

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Present.

11 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: IFA IT Expert  
12 Rob Litchfield?

13 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Present.

14 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Guest Chair and  
15 Member Hobert?

16 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Present.

17 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Before we begin  
18 making our way through today's session, I would like  
19 to request that each speaker mute their audio, when  
20 possible, to eliminate any background noise unless  
21 you are speaking, answering a question, or otherwise  
22 providing any comments for the record. If you are  
23 participating via video, please use your mute button  
24 found on your task bar at the bottom of your screen.

1 You will be able to see the control bar by moving  
2 your mouse or touching the screen of your tablet.

3 For any Guest Member, staff, or  
4 anyone from the public participating via phone, to  
5 mute and unmute your line, you may press \*6 on your  
6 keypad if you do not have that feature on your  
7 phone.

8 As a reminder, we are being recorded,  
9 and a court reporter is transcribing today's  
10 listening session. For the consideration of the  
11 court reporter, I would also like to ask that each  
12 speaker state their name before speaking or  
13 otherwise providing any comments for the record.

14 Finally, I would like to confirm that  
15 all members of the public attending in person or via  
16 audio conference can hear this meeting clearly.

17 Chris, can you confirm that this  
18 video- and audioconference is clearly heard at the  
19 physical location of this meeting?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Thanks, Mark.  
21 This is Chris Meister. I am physically present in  
22 the conference room on the 10th floor of 160 North  
23 LaSalle. With me are Guest Chair Will Hobert and  
24 Guest Member Ameya Pawar. I can confirm that I can

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1 hear all discussions at the physical location of the  
2 listening session. We've advised the security  
3 guards on the first floor that we have this public  
4 session today. The agenda for this listening  
5 session was posted on this floor and on the first  
6 floor, as well as on the Authority's website as of  
7 last Friday, November 4th, 2022. The building  
8 security has been advised that any members of the  
9 public who choose to do so and choose to comply with  
10 the building's public health and safety requirements  
11 may come to this room and speak in the posted manner  
12 and listen to those proceedings.

13 Back to you, Mark.

14 ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: This is Mark  
15 Meyer. Thank you, Chris.

16 If any members of the public  
17 participating via video- or audioconference find  
18 that they cannot hear these proceedings clearly,  
19 please call (312) 651-1300 or write [info@il-fa.com](mailto:info@il-fa.com)  
20 immediately to let us know, and we will endeavor to  
21 solve the audio issue.

22 Over to you, Chair Hobert.

23 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: This is Will Hobert.  
24 Welcome. This is the first time that we have

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1 conducted an agency listening session. As you have  
2 heard, this morning's topic is the Greenhouse Gas  
3 Reduction Fund. The GGRF is an important  
4 opportunity for the Authority in our state statutory  
5 role as the Climate Bank and for Illinois as a  
6 whole.

7           The GGRF is a new program, and the  
8 federal government is in the process of shaping it.  
9 The amount of the GGRF money that the federal  
10 government will be distributing nationally is  
11 estimated to be as large as \$27 billion, and the  
12 timeline of such funding is aggressive. In our  
13 view, the GGRF's purposes are consistent with the  
14 purposes of the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs  
15 Act, or CEJA, specifically the goals of: Putting  
16 1 million electric vehicles on Illinois roads by  
17 2030, reaching 100 percent of clean energy in  
18 Illinois by 2050, and while prioritizing job  
19 creation/training/placement reflecting the diversity  
20 of Illinois.

21           Importantly, US EPA is conducting its  
22 own public engagement efforts. So our work today  
23 merely complements US EPA's public engagement  
24 efforts. However, as the Authority shapes its

1 approach to compete for limited GGRF funds, the  
2 Authority wants to hear as many voices as possible.  
3 We will limit each guest's statement to  
4 three minutes, and an email address has been  
5 provided for written comments. We thank you,  
6 everyone, for your interest in this listening  
7 session and for taking time out of your day.

8           Before I ask Chris to provide a brief  
9 overview of the GGRF opportunity, I turn to my  
10 colleagues, Members Juracek, Pawar, and Poole.

11           GUEST MEMBER JURACEK: Yes. This is  
12 Member Arlene Juracek. And I want to say, first of  
13 all, this is, as has been stated several times  
14 already this morning, an unprecedented opportunity  
15 in both potential funding size and the  
16 aggressiveness of the implementation schedule. And  
17 it's going to be important that all of us -- grant  
18 applicants and grant recipients -- do this right  
19 because I think the whole world is going to be  
20 looking at us.

21           So this morning's opportunity to have  
22 public input is really going to be critical to  
23 shaping the quality of our response. I see that we  
24 have more than 71 folks who have chosen to join us



1 this morning, and I'm looking forward to all of your  
2 comments. I see a varied group of you who are  
3 joining us from all segments of the interested  
4 public. And I encourage you to be candid, to be  
5 succinct, and to be constructive. We're very much  
6 looking forward to hearing from all of you.

7 GUEST MEMBER PAWAR: Good morning. This  
8 is Member Ameya Pawar. This is an exciting day  
9 because Section 134 of the Inflation Reduction Act  
10 is an opportunity to inject much needed private  
11 capital into low-income and disadvantaged  
12 communities across Illinois, improve the health of  
13 these communities by reducing greenhouse gas  
14 emissions, and do so consistent with the governor's  
15 goals outlined in CEJA and in a manner that reflects  
16 the true diversity of Illinois. Thank you.

17 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Roger?

18 GUEST MEMBER POOLE: Yes. Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 Very interesting program, obviously.  
21 Something that we could widely use in the state of  
22 Illinois. That's obvious. So I'm glad to be here  
23 this morning to listen in on the program.

24 I've been a union machinist for

1 50-plus years, and I've had -- I've been active at  
2 all levels of the American labor movement; and also  
3 belong to the -- was vice president of AFL-CIO, the  
4 people who brought you the middle class and the  
5 weekend.

6 I'm excited for the opportunity --  
7 the opportunities of Section 134 of the IRA offer to  
8 the trained and affected women and men of organized  
9 labor. I am the longer serving labor representative  
10 on the Illinois Finance Authority, and I am grateful  
11 to Governor Pritzker for the opportunity to serve  
12 and that we have this listening session this  
13 morning.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Chris, over to you.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Great. Thank  
17 you. For all the stakeholders, there's a memo that  
18 is posted on our website labeled, appropriately, "to  
19 stakeholders." Much of it has been summarized in  
20 the comments up to this moment.

21 I do want to make sure that everybody  
22 is aware, because the links for the US EPA's  
23 Environmental Finance Advisory Board and the  
24 relevant dates -- and those are open to the

1 public -- are there on the bottom of page 1. The  
2 US EPA has provided a GGRF website, which has a  
3 wealth of information on it. But, specifically, I  
4 want to turn to the actual statute, which,  
5 fortunately, is about two-plus pages and is very  
6 brief.

7           So I just really want to outline the  
8 zero-emissions technologies, which the IFA, as a  
9 public entity, can compete for, along with nonprofit  
10 eligible entities. EPA is authorized to make these  
11 grants on a competitive basis. It's up to  
12 \$2 billion, but, specifically, the goal is to  
13 provide financial assistance, including technical  
14 assistance, to enable and benefit low-income and  
15 disadvantaged communities, to deploy or benefit  
16 zero-interest technologies, including rooftop  
17 distributed technologies, and to carry out other  
18 activities. That's \$7 billion.

19           There's close to \$12 billion, again,  
20 competitive to nonprofit eligible recipients.

21           Three, there is up to \$8 billion to  
22 low-income and disadvantaged communities, again, to  
23 eligible recipients. There is a group that helps  
24 with this legislation of the coalition for green

1 capital. They're seeking to create a national green  
2 bank. There is some legislative -- federal  
3 legislative intent on that.

4 But, again, really the focus of  
5 today's discussion is for us to listen on those  
6 sorts of financial assistance, those sorts of loans,  
7 grants, guarantees, technical assistance, needs in  
8 Illinois that, should the Illinois Finance  
9 Authority, as the Climate Bank, to be fortunate  
10 enough to receive these moneys, that we could  
11 maximize these utilities and sustainability of these  
12 funds over the long term.

13 So should we begin? Oh, I'm sorry.  
14 This is a listening session. The instructions for  
15 the attendees are here. If any attendee is  
16 participating by video, please indicate by raising  
17 your hand. I believe we already have one. Click  
18 the "raise hand" option at the bottom of your  
19 screen. And you should be able to see that on the  
20 task bar. If you are participating by phone, please  
21 indicate your desire to raise your hand by pressing  
22 \*9.

23 Each attendee will be speaking for  
24 three minutes or less. We will have a timer. We

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1 have a large number of attendees, so we would  
2 encourage you, if you have less than three minutes,  
3 use less than three minutes.

4 We also have the opportunity to  
5 submit comments in writing. The website is  
6 noticed -- it is on the website on the notice. It's  
7 open until 5:00 p.m. Central time on November 18,  
8 2022.

9 This session is being recorded, and  
10 we have a court reporter here transcribing the  
11 discussion. When you are called upon, please be --  
12 slowly state and spell your name so that the court  
13 reporter can accurately record it.

14 Rob Litchfield, our colleague, will  
15 help us manage the queue.

16 Back to you, Will.

17 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Chris.  
18 This is Will Hobert.

19 Rob, if you could -- if I could ask  
20 you and Chris to work together to queue and call  
21 upon the attendee speakers, we will work to have as  
22 many attendee speakers as possible. This session  
23 will only run for 60 minutes total.

24 And, Rob, do you have the speakers

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1 ready?

2 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: I have -- the  
3 first one is Stephen Nickels. I'm going to allow  
4 him to speak. Stephen?

5 MR. NICKELS: Good morning. Good morning.  
6 From the Illinois Finance Authority "Agency  
7 Listening Session Materials related to the  
8 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund" guidelines, Number 3,  
9 qualified project: "The term 'qualified project'  
10 includes any project, activity, or technology that  
11 reduces or avoids greenhouse gas emissions and other  
12 forms of air pollution in partnership with, and by  
13 leveraging investments from, the private sector," or  
14 the Illinois Finance Authority must exclude any  
15 carbon capture projects from consideration of  
16 funding due to the fact that carbon dioxide capture  
17 and transportation, whether for sequestration or  
18 enhanced oil recovery is a net emitter of greenhouse  
19 gases. Therefore, has failed Section 3(A) as quoted  
20 above, carbon dioxide capture and transportation for  
21 sequestration or enhanced oil recovery does not  
22 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

23 The Illinois Finance Authority must  
24 further include debt reduction as a path for

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1 greenhouse gas reduction by municipal electric  
2 aggregators and rural electric co-op to their  
3 generation facility. This is one of the only paths  
4 to a cleaner mix of future power generation for  
5 those of us in beautiful rural Illinois.

6           Until the coal plants retire, we  
7 rural Illinoisans inevitably contribute to the  
8 destruction of that which so many generations have  
9 taken for granted: A liveable planet.

10           Oh, and my name is Stephen Nickels,  
11 N-i-c-k-e-l-s, and I'm with Illinois People's  
12 Action. And I thank you for allowing me to address  
13 you.

14           GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Stephen.

15           Rob?

16           IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Sorry. So our  
17 next up on our list is Jonah.

18           MR. RUBIN: Hi. My name is Jonah Rubin;  
19 that's J-o-n-a-h; last name, R-u-b-i-n. I'm sitting  
20 here with my 10-week-old son Raphael, R-a-p-h-a-e-l.

21           And we are from Galesburg, Illinois.

22           We're a small city in Western  
23 Illinois of 30,000 people. And, historically, we  
24 were the type of town where you could get a

1 good-paying union job and be in the middle class.  
2 That changed 18 years ago now, when Maytag left  
3 town. And since then, it's hit us hard. The scars  
4 of Maytag leaving here, really is still felt here.

5           We have a nearly 20 percent poverty  
6 rate here in Galesburg. You know, one of the things  
7 that is amazing about CEJA is the presence of these  
8 workforce hubs where people can get really strong  
9 training for founding a green business, get strong  
10 training for getting those good-paying middle-class  
11 jobs. We don't have one in Galesburg. It's a lot  
12 to ask people from my community to travel 45 minutes  
13 or an hour to get to Peoria to go attend class so  
14 that they can get a job three months, six months  
15 from now.

16           We're getting a lot of federal money.  
17 It would be amazing if we could just direct those to  
18 found more of these CEJA workforce hubs in  
19 communities like mine, the gap communities, that  
20 don't have these opportunities for training, that  
21 don't have the opportunities to get that pathway to  
22 the middle class that, historically, this town has  
23 had.

24           So I would urge the Climate Bank to

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1 really explore the possibility of expanding the CEJA  
2 workforce training cites towards communities like  
3 mine, gap communities, that could really use them.

4 I will just echo the previous speaker  
5 as well in saying that one thing we don't want in  
6 our community are these carbon capture pipelines.  
7 They're not producing long-term paying jobs. I  
8 don't see why we should help islands pollute more.  
9 And I definitely don't want to be driving and have  
10 one of them explode in my community, as they have in  
11 several other communities.

12 So we want real solutions like the  
13 CEJA workforce hubs in my community, and we don't  
14 want false solutions that don't help communities;  
15 that make more communities more dangerous and that  
16 give a license to pollute elsewhere. Thank you.

17 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Jonah.

18 Rob, next up?

19 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: So next up we have  
20 Joyce -- is it Harant? Joyce?

21 MS. HARANT: Okay. Can you hear me?

22 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Yes.

23 MS. HARANT: Great. Thank you very much.

24 My name is Joyce Harant, and I'm in Peoria. And my

1 background is interest and training in public health  
2 and also serve as a Peoria Park District Trustee.  
3 And I'm here representing the Central Illinois  
4 Healthy Community Alliance.

5 I noted with interest Mr. Meister's  
6 statement when he used a reference to zero  
7 emissions, and I would like to encourage you to  
8 begin using real -- the term "real zero emissions"  
9 because some are now starting to use this term "net  
10 zero." And that refers to, in my view, the use of  
11 carbon capture and sequestration or has oil recovery  
12 techniques that give us the false hope that we will  
13 be able to continue burning fossil fuels forever,  
14 and just put it in the ground. And that is a false  
15 hope.

16 We know that there are other health  
17 impacts from other pollution sources when we burn  
18 fossil fuels. I believe it's inconsistent with CEJA  
19 where we want to close the coal plants. So I'm  
20 encouraging you, as Illinois Finance Authority, to  
21 not fund and encourage, through your funding  
22 sources, any carbon sequestration projects or  
23 pipeline projects. Others have pointed out the  
24 dangers -- it's risky, untested, and there's really

1 no assurance that every carbon dioxide molecule that  
2 is put in the ground will stay in the ground. And  
3 once it starts coming out, we have no control over  
4 it.

5 So we can better spend our funds  
6 funding renewable energy, energy efficiency, making  
7 sure electric vehicles are built out and they are  
8 charged by renewable energy. And so I -- and,  
9 again, that we use our funds to ensure that equity  
10 contractors can get the jobs, that the hubs are  
11 supported so that we can ensure that our  
12 environmental justice communities get the benefits  
13 from the Climate Fund that we all intended when we  
14 passed CEJA. So thank you very much.

15 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Joyce.

16 Rob?

17 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Excuse me. Next  
18 up we have Peter Schwartzman.

19 MR. SCHWARTZMAN: Yes. Hello. Thank you  
20 so much for giving me the opportunity to speak to  
21 you today. I'm the mayor of Galesburg, Illinois.  
22 It's a city of 30,000 residents in West Central  
23 Illinois. I'm also an environmental studies  
24 professor at Knox College and have been there since

1 1998. I'm also a member of the IPA, Illinois  
2 People's of Action.

3 Over my 30 years as an environment  
4 scholar, I've published several peer-reviewed  
5 articles on climate change and energy. I've also  
6 coauthored a book in 2019, "Under the Future of  
7 Energy and Food."

8 As a scientist and politician, I see  
9 amazing opportunities for Illinois to become a  
10 primary provider of clean energy in the future for  
11 the Midwest and beyond. And when I say future, I'm  
12 talking near future. We have an ample wind and  
13 solar energy in our state, not only for Illinois,  
14 but for all surrounding states. As an elected  
15 leader of my community for the past 12 years, I have  
16 focused a lot of attention on energy savings and  
17 real energy development.

18 We have seen amazing progress. We  
19 first aggregated our power eight years ago, and  
20 we've saved our residents millions of dollars over  
21 this time. We had a solar array put at our water  
22 pumping station, which is located outside of  
23 Galesburg. That was started up in 2020, and we are  
24 saving residents in the city \$50,000 a year on that.

1           We have -- also, we currently have an  
2 RP valve to put solar in our city's water plant  
3 storage plant, and we see that as a very lucrative  
4 and environmentally safe and responsible path.

5           Two large projects are planned in  
6 renewable energy for our county. Both are over  
7 \$50 million. One is a wind project that's held up  
8 in court currently but should be released soon. And  
9 a very large, 400-acre array -- solar array just  
10 south of town. That's going to bring incredible  
11 amounts of tax revenue to our community, provide  
12 revenue for farmers and other landowners. I hope  
13 you guys know about the aggregate FAIT programs that  
14 are being taught now in -- at the University of  
15 Illinois so we can grow food and extract energy from  
16 plots at the same time.

17           Closing thoughts; very important.  
18 These are very important developments in rural  
19 communities. These are really good jobs and  
20 good-paying ones. The tax revenue I alluded to is  
21 very important to sustain these communities. But we  
22 need to train and hire local people and with  
23 emphasis on low-income --

24           IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Peter, you have

1 less than 30 seconds left.

2 MR. SCHWARTZMAN: Thank you. I want to  
3 emphasize, too, the incredible potential for energy  
4 storage. For us to become a net energy provider of  
5 energy for other communities outside of Illinois,  
6 which I think we have the capacity to do, we need to  
7 invest in energy storage.

8 We're ready to move forward, and I'm  
9 looking forward to -- and eager to apply for green  
10 financing through the Climate Bank so we can be  
11 aggressive with our continued efforts in our  
12 community. Thank you, again.

13 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Peter. I  
14 appreciate those thoughts. If we cut you off  
15 because of the three-minute time limit, please feel  
16 free to submit more thoughts by email. We would  
17 appreciate that.

18 Rob, next?

19 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: So our next caller  
20 is Dawn Dennenbring.

21 Dawn, you're muted.

22 MS. DENNENBRING: Thank you. My name is  
23 Dawn Dennenbring. I'm an environmental justice  
24 organizer for Illinois People's Action. You heard

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1 from some of our members already. We have members  
2 throughout Illinois, outside of Chicago. And our  
3 members were heavily involved in passing the Climate  
4 and Equitable Jobs Act and are now working on  
5 implementing the bill.

6 I serve on the leadership team of the  
7 downstate caucus and the Jobs and Economic Justice  
8 Committee of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, but  
9 I am speaking on behalf of Illinois People's Action  
10 today.

11 CEJA is groundbreaking in both  
12 addressing the climate prices and our need to build  
13 a new green economy, leading with racial equity, and  
14 it would be our recommendation that you use the  
15 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund money to amplify CEJA  
16 because money is not unlimited. We ask that you  
17 apply a litmus test as you decide how to prioritize  
18 your spending. And if this sounds like I'm  
19 amplifying some of what you've already heard, it's  
20 probably because it's so important.

21 So, specifically, we would ask that  
22 you ask yourselves two questions to either move a  
23 proposal forward or to stop it in its tracks. The  
24 first is: Will this project support the build-out

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1 of truly renewable energy, prioritizing solar and  
2 wind, and doing it in a racially equitable way. It  
3 needs to be a "yes" to this answer to move forward.

4           And the second question needs to be a  
5 no. And that is: Would any portion of this project  
6 prolong fossil fuel use, invest in fossil fuel  
7 infrastructure; would it promote new uses for fossil  
8 fuels or allow for a disproportionate life cycle  
9 impact on the health, safety, or environmental  
10 justice communities. If any portion of that is a  
11 "yes," the proposal needs to be stopped in its  
12 tracks.

13           I thank you for the opportunity to  
14 provide this oral testimony and will follow up with  
15 written comments that further explain this. Thank  
16 you.

17           GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you very much,  
18 Dawn.

19           Rob?

20           IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Our next speaker  
21 is Don from Illinois People's Action.

22           MR. CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
23 Executive Director and members of the board. My  
24 name is Don Carlson, C-a-r-l-s-o-n. I'm the



1 executive director of Illinois People's Action, and  
2 we're geographically, I think, probably the most  
3 diverse community-based organization in Illinois,  
4 with membership from Rockford and Galena in the  
5 north to Johnson County in the south, with a focus  
6 of organizing in the cities of Peoria, Decatur,  
7 Danville, Galesburg, and Rockford, and in rural  
8 communities as well.

9           What I really want to do is amplify  
10 some of the presentations that you've heard already,  
11 I believe all of whom have been IPA members.  
12 There's really three pillars, but there are, you  
13 know, multiple items under those. The first is  
14 making sure that you lead with racial equity. CEJA  
15 is very explicit, about 40 percent of the benefits  
16 going to R3 and PJ environmental justice  
17 communities. I would just add that the president's  
18 own justice for the initiative refers to BIPOC  
19 communities, 13 different times in the executive  
20 order. So you can be explicit in talking about  
21 BIPOC and disadvantaged communities.

22           Secondly, as you've heard from our  
23 leaders in Galesburg -- and there will be others  
24 from Danville and elsewhere -- make sure that the

1 projects are geographically diverse. You know and I  
2 know that Chicago's going to get theirs. And the  
3 challenge is going to be is to make sure that clean  
4 energy, equitable jobs projects, equitable clean  
5 energy projects, are across the breadth of the  
6 state, including far-South Illinois.

7           And third, as you just heard from  
8 Dawn and others, do not spend this on false  
9 solutions. You know, all you have to do is kind of  
10 do a little Google search about FutureGen 1.0 and  
11 the fact that that was going to be a \$1.6 billion  
12 boondoggle. Then you look at FutureGen 2.0s, that  
13 this own Authority went to the Washington, D.C., to  
14 try to promote to the federal government. And that  
15 was taking -- I think, at least on the carbon  
16 sequestration piece -- \$86 million they put in the  
17 parking lot and burned it.

18           We don't need FutureGen 3.0s. That  
19 would be a disaster. The only thing that's changed  
20 in that picture is that the sequestration has become  
21 much more expensive, if you can believe it, and  
22 there is now an organized grassroots movement in  
23 opposition.

24           IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: You have

1 30 seconds.

2 MR. CARLSON: In closing, don't shut this  
3 down at 12:00 o'clock. I realize that this is one  
4 of the first times you've had citizen participation.  
5 Don't leave a whole bunch of people on this  
6 presentation and tell them to write something in an  
7 email. Reschedule something so you can hear from  
8 everyday people in this process. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Don. I  
11 appreciate those thoughts. And to that point, if we  
12 run out of time -- we have a hard stop at noon -- if  
13 we run out of time, we will be rescheduling for  
14 Thursday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. for another  
15 round of listening if we run out of time.

16 Rob?

17 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Our next caller is  
18 Phoebe Downey.

19 MS. DOWNEY: Hi. This is Phoebe Downey  
20 with the FCOs that represent Chicago, Cook County,  
21 and in the six surrounding collar counties.

22 Looking -- we kind of looked at the  
23 electrification of the resource network daily here,  
24 working to kind of -- with our legal partners, the

1 CEJA process, modes of transit, freight, personal  
2 EVs. One of the things we regularly heard from our  
3 four agencies, as well as our other partners in the  
4 areas, that there's a lot of funding available for  
5 purchasing EVs and EV charging infrastructure and  
6 that they really are starting to see, like, the  
7 benefits of switching the fleet to EV to benefit  
8 these disadvantaged communities, reducing their  
9 greenhouse gas emissions. The challenge is some of  
10 the initial upfront people that they're fighting is  
11 especially regarding facilities updates in  
12 electrifying fleets in many pieces.

13 I do see, kind of the IFA and this  
14 funding as a potential to offer some kind of  
15 revolving loan fund program, just like they do in  
16 other municipal agencies that would help to overcome  
17 the initial upfront costs and barriers. And then  
18 these agencies, with the savings they're making  
19 electrifying the fleet, they're coming down  
20 significantly. Those states could be used to kind  
21 of pay off those loans in the long term. It just  
22 seems like a great opportunity for someone like IFA  
23 who has the experience in this day already to  
24 provide some kind of program like that. Thanks.

1 Thank you.

2 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Phoebe. I  
3 appreciate your thoughts.

4 Rob, next speaker?

5 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Our next speaker  
6 is Jeff Crabbal.

7 MR. CRABBAL: Hi. Can you hear me?

8 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Yes, we can.

9 MR. CRABBAL: Thank you so much for  
10 allowing me the opportunity to speak. And also, I  
11 appreciate you holding another session in the  
12 evening, so I think more people would be able to  
13 attend.

14 I am a member of Illinois People's  
15 Action. But I am speaking as a member of the city  
16 council for the city of Bloomington, individually.  
17 And I can see where the city of Bloomington could  
18 benefit greatly from funds from the source. You  
19 know, we, for instance, have millions of dollars  
20 worth of fleet vehicles in our city. You know, we  
21 have tried to do what we can with it -- you know,  
22 idle reduction technology. But we just don't simply  
23 have the funds to make all of those vehicles  
24 electric.

1                   Also, we do have disadvantaged areas  
2 of our community, many of which would support solar  
3 panels, wind farms, you know, that type of thing.  
4 Many of our government buildings also could be used  
5 for solar and help reduce the city's energy bill.  
6 All of this work would provide good-paying jobs for  
7 people in those disadvantaged, you know, community.  
8 And so, you know, I would strongly encourage the use  
9 of these funds for local communities to do more than  
10 what we otherwise could with our limited budgets.  
11 Thank you so much.

12                   GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Jeff. We  
13 appreciate your thoughts.

14                   Rob, next?

15                   IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Our next speaker  
16 is Stratford Shields.

17                   Stratford, you need to unmute  
18 yourself.

19                   MR. SHIELDS: My name is Stratford  
20 Shields. I appreciate the opportunity to address  
21 the Authority in this open meeting. I'm with Blue  
22 Capital, which is based in Chicago. I am a managing  
23 director, and we have a specialized finance group  
24 there.

1                   Blue Capital is the largest  
2 minority-owned security company in the United  
3 States. It is also harbored in Chicago. We have a  
4 long history at Blue Capital of working with the  
5 Authority, which is a trusted participant in the  
6 capital markets. The IFA has been a leader in ESG  
7 financings in the capital markets. It's one of the  
8 first issuers to have issued green bonds for the  
9 state's water and waste -- water and state revolving  
10 fund programs.

11                   We have also been a partner with the  
12 IFA on financings for the PACE program, which is the  
13 Property Assessment Clean Energy financing program,  
14 which is for energy efficiency and renewable energy  
15 projects for commercial facilities, which we have  
16 financed, you know, through the IFA, mostly in  
17 Chicago. We would hope to work with the IFA in  
18 greenhouse gas financing opportunities with clean  
19 energy and climate projects, based on its history of  
20 using innovative financing to maximize the leverage  
21 or the impact of, you know, these new federal  
22 programs, as the IFA has done in the past for the  
23 governments, and as I've mentioned for the Illinois  
24 EPA's waste and waste water programs.

1           You know, again, I appreciate the  
2 opportunity to address the Authority and would like  
3 to express our interest in continuing to be the  
4 Authority's partner as it looks to maximize the  
5 impact, you know, of these new financing programs.  
6 Thank you very much.

7           GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Stratford.  
8 We appreciate your time.

9           Rob, next?

10          IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Our next caller,  
11 speaker is Deborah Whitaker.

12          Deborah, you need to unmute yourself.

13          MS. WHITAKER: Hello. Can you hear me?

14          IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: We can.

15          MS. WHITAKER: Hello. Deborah Whitaker,  
16 director of business development and diverse supply  
17 chain with HIRE360. One of our main focuses, we  
18 have work with 120 diverse businesses that  
19 are -- have been invested in and have not really had  
20 a tremendous amount of opportunities. And now we  
21 have those opportunities that are presenting  
22 themselves as one of the biggest obstacles for any  
23 of these businesses in order for them to participate  
24 in these opportunities is capital, you know,



1 equipment purchases, and things that are needed that  
2 some of the small businesses do not have the  
3 capabilities of being able to take advantage of.

4           So whereas these programs are coming  
5 to actually move us forward and help us to actually,  
6 like I said, you know, eliminate the greenhouse  
7 gases, we have to take into consideration these  
8 opportunities for generation wealth creation for a  
9 lot of businesses that have not had those types of  
10 opportunities.

11           So I would like for the consideration  
12 to be made towards making sure that, you know, the  
13 technical system that is going to come out of this,  
14 you know, would actually have some allowance for  
15 companies to be able to rescale them up, get that  
16 access to capital, get that access to the training  
17 and the capabilities for them to actually  
18 participate and take advantage of this and not just  
19 be something where some of the larger companies  
20 that, you know, traditionally get those  
21 opportunities. You just kind of throw out the  
22 crumbs to those smaller businesses. So I just want  
23 to make sure there's a lot of emphasis on inclusion  
24 for those minority businesses.

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1 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Deborah.  
2 We appreciate your thoughts.

3 Rob, it looks -- next up is Ben?

4 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Sorry. Ben  
5 Jackson is next.

6 Ben?

7 MR. JACKSON: Hello. I'm here. Thank  
8 you. My name is Ben Jackson. I am the executive  
9 vice president with the Illinois Bankers  
10 Association. I appreciate this opportunity to weigh  
11 in on this important matter. I appreciate the IFA  
12 having this public listening session, and it  
13 provides us an opportunity to talk about our  
14 industry's perspective as the perspective of banks,  
15 community banks, and money center banks operating  
16 throughout Illinois and every community throughout  
17 our state to talk about our strong, decades-long  
18 relationship with the Illinois Finance Authority.

19 The Illinois Finance Authority has  
20 been a critical partner throughout the decades on a  
21 number of initiatives, from farm lending for  
22 Illinois farmers and ranchers and aggregate  
23 businesses, partnering with private banks, as well  
24 as on larger-scale projects such as what is being

1 undertaken with C-PACE, for example, or in securing  
2 and appropriately implementing funds from the  
3 Inflation Reduction Act.

4 We strongly support, and we have  
5 written letters to support, for the agency receiving  
6 funds under this program that would help Illinoisans  
7 across the state. And it would also continue to  
8 strengthen that partnership between a private  
9 finance in Illinois, helping the Illinois economy,  
10 while also ensuring there's a public partner that is  
11 critical to this process of moving Illinois towards  
12 a clean energy future.

13 We strongly support funds coming into  
14 Illinois from the federal stimulus bill to support  
15 development of green energy throughout the state of  
16 Illinois. IFA, we have worked with them in  
17 Springfield, in Chicago, all over, to come up with  
18 ways to strengthen that partnership between private  
19 finance and government for many years to come, and  
20 that includes working together on the PACE program,  
21 getting that right in Springfield, as well as the  
22 Climate Bank, which the Authority established a  
23 short time ago.

24 We believe these funds couldn't be

---

1 better placed than they would be with the IFA. They  
2 have a long --

3 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Thirty seconds  
4 left.

5 MR. JACKSON: -- track record of  
6 appropriately using these funds. They have an  
7 independent board that oversees the administration  
8 of that, with many finance experts placed on that  
9 board. We have the utmost confidence in the IFA  
10 appropriately using those funds going forward.

11 Thank you for the time. I appreciate  
12 the opportunity to testify on behalf of the industry  
13 here.

14 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Ben. We  
15 appreciate your thoughts.

16 Rob, next up?

17 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Next up, we have  
18 DeMario Greene.

19 MR. GREENE: Hello. This is DeMario  
20 Greene. I am the policy and government relations  
21 director for the Chicago Community Loan Fund. We're  
22 minority, midsized senior advisers with Chicago  
23 since 1991. In that time we have provided more than  
24 545 loans that have leveraged more than 1.6 billion

1 for 501 financing for for-profit and nonprofit  
2 developers, both gaining accesses to affordable  
3 housing and commercial retail community facilities  
4 and social enterprises to communities across  
5 Chicagoland.

6 We've also been able to preserve or  
7 create nearly 11,600 units of housing, more than  
8 6,500 jobs, and 12.2 million square feet of  
9 commercial real estate space and nonprofit  
10 facilities there, affordable to do in sustainability  
11 and decarbonization. And we're firmly committed to  
12 working with borrowers who understand the importance  
13 of proactively reversing the extent of environmental  
14 racism that has been placed on Black and Brown  
15 communities that we primarily serve.

16 To that end, we have been able to  
17 leverage more than \$332 million to support green  
18 initiatives in the various types of investment  
19 community that the GGRF is intended to uplift. We  
20 definitely want to highlight that GGRF, like ours,  
21 are some of the most uniquely tailored to serve  
22 minorities -- a majority of minority neighborhoods  
23 in my communities, because that's where we're most  
24 deeply embedded.

1                   And it's important that the  
2 diverse -- that the awarding process be diverse.  
3 You cannot concentrate GGRF funds in the hands of  
4 two organizations. A diverse applicant is to ensure  
5 equitable and environmentalized outcome, and we  
6 stress that to the IFA. And we also want you all to  
7 know that it's important to strengthen the fund's  
8 impact in low-income and disadvantaged communities  
9 by specifically empowering emerging and  
10 minority-lived and nondepository community financial  
11 service providers who are deeply entrenched in these  
12 communities.

13                   It's also vital that the award be for  
14 at least 40 percent of all program funds to  
15 qualified applicants and reflective of and have a  
16 genuine history in the low-income and disadvantaged  
17 communities that they serve.

18                   We also have to lead with energy  
19 efficiency as a strategy to maximize greenhouse gas  
20 reductions in low-income and disadvantaged  
21 communities. We have to do the nonthreatening  
22 stuff, the regular everyday stuff, and we have to do  
23 it better. In addition to making sure that whatever  
24 programs --

1            IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: DeMario, you have  
2 20 seconds.

3            MR. GREENE: -- because it takes both  
4 sides. We have been able to partner with some great  
5 folks to do some amazing things in the group. They  
6 want to continue that work, and we know that we can  
7 do that with the help of IFA and the GGRF. Thank  
8 you so much for your time.

9            GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, DeMario.  
10 We appreciate your thoughts.

11            Rob, next up looks like Tim?

12            IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Yes. Our next  
13 speaker is Tim Williams.

14            MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. Tim  
15 Williams here with RBC Capital Markets. And I  
16 wanted to just offer some insight/input here with  
17 regard to these grants, these new funds from the  
18 federal government, and how they would be received  
19 by the capital markets through the Illinois Finance  
20 Authority.

21            We've got a really well-regarded  
22 best-in-class entity in the Authority that has used  
23 capital grants, capitalization grants, and federal  
24 funding for over two decades to leverage that into

1 multiples of one, two, or three times, you know, of  
2 the amount that would have otherwise been funded  
3 through a leveraging; and that's the Drinking Water  
4 Act and Clean Water Act fund.

5 And this is a perfect opportunity as  
6 it relates to the programs under IRA, greenhouse gas  
7 reduction, etc., to continue to use that expertise.

8 And just want to note for the record  
9 that these concepts, this structures -- or these  
10 structures for ledgering are very well-received by  
11 the capital markets. And, of course, IFA has a long  
12 history of expertise in this area, well regarded by  
13 the market, and would be an opportunity for you to,  
14 you know, fund two, three, or four times as much as  
15 would otherwise be funded, you know, with grants  
16 alone.

17 That's it. And good luck with this,  
18 and look forward to the opportunity to assist with  
19 wherever we can.

20 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Tim.

21 Rob, next?

22 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Next we have, it  
23 looks like, MeLena Hessel?

24 MS. HESSEL: Hi. Can you hear me?



1            IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: We can.

2            GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Yes.

3            MS. HESSEL: Great. Thank you for the  
4 opportunity to comment today. I'm MeLena Hessel.  
5 I'm associate director of policy at Elevate.

6            Elevate is an Illinois-based  
7 nonprofit with extensive programs in historically  
8 disinvested communities in state, regionally, and  
9 nationwide. We design and implement energy  
10 efficiency, solar, building decarbonization, clean  
11 water, and workforce development programs at lower  
12 costs to protect the environment and ensure that  
13 program benefits reach those who need them most.

14            The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund  
15 creates an opportunity to reduce carbon emissions  
16 and improve quality of life in historically  
17 disinvested communities. It builds on the clean  
18 energy winds that the state has already locked in  
19 through the passage of CEJA. And if the program is  
20 to live up to federal and state clean energy and  
21 equity goals, then it must be used to fill gaps and  
22 financing for projects brought forward by  
23 environmental justice and are supporting 40  
24 communities and that benefit those communities and

1 the households in them.

2           There are many attractive  
3 large-scaled projects and companies in the clean  
4 energy space. But these projects and businesses are  
5 often able to access other sources of support  
6 including tax credits, other IRA programs, and  
7 private capital. Smaller projects and smaller  
8 companies, and particularly disadvantaged and  
9 equity-eligible communities, simply do not have the  
10 same access to capital. With that in mind, I want  
11 to speak to two different types of projects I see as  
12 key opportunities for this money to fund.

13           First, energy-efficient buildings,  
14 community scaling of installation, and building  
15 decarbonization in residential buildings and  
16 buildings owned by community-based organizations are  
17 very difficult to move forward in the current  
18 financing environment. I would urge the IFA to  
19 focus its efforts and any comments it submits on  
20 these types of projects, which need additional  
21 support and have few places to go for it.

22           Second, it is critical that the money  
23 from this fund is used to advance projects led by  
24 marginalized businesses, including equity-eligible

1 contractors. Funds should be used to help  
2 marginalized disadvantaged businesses and the  
3 communities across the state from which they  
4 originate, flourish.

5 We would like to see loan, grant,  
6 and/or other --

7 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Thirty seconds  
8 left.

9 MS. HESSEL: -- thank you -- that support  
10 marginalized businesses; pursue energy efficiency;  
11 solar, wind, and EV development across the state.  
12 And I'm confident that the IFA has the experience  
13 and track record to meaningfully support this goal,  
14 but I also urge you to explore what other entities  
15 may be important to truly reach a broad range of  
16 diverse businesses and communities because we need  
17 to reach them all.

18 Thank you for listening today. I'd  
19 urge the IFA to keep these remarks in mind. I have  
20 drafted comments to the EPA, worked with other  
21 funding partners, and developed its own program.  
22 That's it.

23 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, MeLena.

24 Rob, next up?

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1                    IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: We have Scott  
2                    Robertson.

3                    MR. ROBERTSON: How are you? Hello. Can  
4                    you hear me?

5                    IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: We can.

6                    MR. ROBERTSON: Okay. Hello. My name is  
7                    Scott Robinson, and I'm the vice president with C&H  
8                    Security. I wanted to share our observations with  
9                    the Authority on the State Revolving Fund financial  
10                   program.

11                                We have observed that the Authority  
12                   operates an effective and transparent financing  
13                   program on behalf of the state. Furthermore, the  
14                   Authority has used the capital market to the  
15                   advantage of the State Revolving Fund program to  
16                   achieve public benefits for this Environmental  
17                   Financing Program. Issuers like the Authority,  
18                   which fund State Revolving Fund programs, are  
19                   well-suited to lead programs like the ones being  
20                   discussed today. Thank you for your time.

21                                GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Scott.

22                                Rob, next up?

23                                IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Next up is  
24                   Brian -- I'm sorry if I mispronounce this -- is it

---

1 Liechti?

2 MR. LIECHTI: Yes. Liechti; that's  
3 L-i-e-c-h-t-i, and I am the senior manager of  
4 marketing at Inclusive Prosperity Capital.

5 IPC is a clean energy 501(c)(3)  
6 financing platform. It's run out of the Connecticut  
7 Green Bank and focuses on aligning investment  
8 capital and financing programs with organizations,  
9 projects, and community initiatives that benefit  
10 traditionally underserved markets.

11 IPC partners with state and local  
12 governments, green banks, CDFIs, and other lenders,  
13 nonprofits, and developers to create programs,  
14 derisk other lenders, trade new structures, own  
15 assets on their behalf to collaborate on products,  
16 program, or process design.

17 And in order to solve the problems  
18 that we're facing, we need to green our existing  
19 infrastructure and lending institutions; to take  
20 capital, including new green capital, and leverage  
21 it; create new programs; scale programs; invest in  
22 job training and new lending and alternatively  
23 secured lending to scale real, meaningful programs  
24 for communities.

1                   This is about helping capital find  
2 its way to communities, and that's exactly what I  
3 have faith, as this is new capital. And the key is  
4 to create -- not create new programs in some cases,  
5 but to leverage existing programs and work across  
6 state agencies.

7                   I would like to agree with the point  
8 that Tim made earlier on IFA's historical use of  
9 leveraging federal funds, and I want to emphasize  
10 that we partner with organizations nationally,  
11 effectively operating as a virtual green bank.

12                   I want to thank the IFA for their --  
13 opportunity to speak this afternoon, and best of  
14 luck as the process unfolds.

15                   GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Brian. I  
16 appreciate your thoughts.

17                   Rob, next up?

18                   IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Next up is  
19 John -- is it Delurey?

20                   MR. DELUREY: Yeah. Delurey.

21                   Thank you all for making this time,  
22 and just wanted to point out how robust the  
23 participation has been. And we may not hit the top  
24 of the hour, depending how long I and whoever

1 follows me goes, but would definitely recommend an  
2 evening session, if at all possible, logistically.  
3 It just turns out different types of people who  
4 might be working now or might be otherwise engaged.

5           So my name is John Delurey. I'm with  
6 Vote Solar. Vote Solar is a national solar and  
7 justice advocacy organization. We focus on making  
8 solar more equitable and inclusive. I'm also on the  
9 steering committee of the Clean Jobs Coalition, on  
10 the board for the Illinois Environmental Council and  
11 the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, but I'm  
12 speaking today just on behalf of Vote Solar.

13           I would hazard that our shared goal  
14 is to get the money to the ground and to pull as  
15 much of it as possible to support the people of  
16 Illinois; in particular, low wealth and  
17 disadvantaged Illinois families. We need money to  
18 deploy large scale climate and clean energy  
19 solutions. Don't get me wrong. I just don't worry  
20 as much about those projects that are easier to  
21 finance and have, traditionally, been easier to  
22 capitalize.

23           I worry about the projects that are  
24 harder to finance, as some other speakers have

1 referenced; those that are in disadvantaged  
2 communities, those that are built by disadvantaged  
3 contractors, or those contractors that have been  
4 blocked or overlooked by a long history of racist  
5 lending. We need to put solar on every roof and a  
6 heat pump in every home, with low-wealth Illinoisans  
7 at the very front of the line. Many of these  
8 financing products will require aggregating small  
9 projects, many of which that are done by small,  
10 often nonunion, mom-and-pop contractors.

11           The Illinois Finance Authority's  
12 Climate Bank will be critically important, but not  
13 sufficient, in achieving this goal. This is why my  
14 colleagues at the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition and  
15 I worked with members of the Illinois Legislature to  
16 create a new inclusive financing entity. We spent  
17 months listening to disadvantaged communities and  
18 Black and Brown contractors and consulted  
19 extensively with the coalition for green capital  
20 when crafting the structure and role of this new  
21 entity. And that's the same bill that created the  
22 Climate Bank Authority, has created a new Green Bank  
23 as well, the Clean Energy Jobs and Justice Fund.

24           That fund is laser-focused on



1 equitable outcomes and was specifically designed as  
2 a nonprofit entity, to both cover gaps in the  
3 financing landscape and to go places that other  
4 entities might not.

5 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Thirty seconds,  
6 John.

7 MR. DELUREY: Thank you. The timing works  
8 out well, especially considering that 20 of the  
9 27 billion in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is  
10 reserved for nonprofits and other similar eligible  
11 entities. When the moment comes, this is why we  
12 should have a coordinated approach to apply for  
13 funding to the State of Illinois.

14 Thanks to CEJA, thanks to Governor  
15 Pritzker, thanks to many in-state leaderships, I  
16 believe Illinois is in position to claim over a  
17 billion dollars of the 27 billion, but only if we  
18 work together and focus on real, not false, climate  
19 and clean energy solutions.

20 My direct ask, in closing, is that  
21 the comments submitted to the Greenhouse Gas  
22 Reduction Fund or about the Greenhouse Gas Reduction  
23 Fund express the need for multiple recipients at  
24 multiple scales, including the job-adjusted funds,

1 to fully achieve climate and economic justice.

2 Thank you.

3 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, John. We  
4 have time for one to two more callers, and we will  
5 also be scheduling a November 17th at 7:00 p.m.  
6 listening session.

7 So with that, Rob, can you ask our  
8 next speaker to unmute.

9 IFA IT ROB LITCHFIELD: Our next caller is  
10 Deonte Moore.

11 MR. MOORE: How's it going? Thank you,  
12 all, for allowing me this opportunity. I am Deonte  
13 Moore. I am the Green Jobs Workforce program  
14 director for the Illinois Environmental Council.  
15 And I just want to highlight -- I think, three  
16 things.

17 I think that all of the funding  
18 that's coming down the pipe from the federal  
19 government as a result of the creation of the Green  
20 Bank and the funding for disadvantaged communities,  
21 as well, I think it's important to utilize those  
22 funds to bolster the support of the -- in the  
23 operations of 13 workforce hubs in the state. That  
24 may also include expanding satellite facilities that

1 provide training as well, similar to what's provided  
2 in the workforce hubs.

3           Likewise, I think that it's  
4 imperative that the IFA considers supporting the  
5 IPA's Energy Workforce Equity Database. Given the  
6 history of an inequitable job placement, I think we  
7 need to ensure that there's a mechanism in place to  
8 track people's -- not only entrance into the  
9 workforce hub; their progress throughout the  
10 workforce hubs and their integration into the jobs.  
11 Without a mechanism like that in place or system,  
12 which would be a robust database in place, I think  
13 we would fail to be able to ensure that the job  
14 placements and the job training is reaching the  
15 disadvantaged communities. And not only that, I  
16 think we would also fail our transition communities  
17 who are transitioning from coal communities  
18 throughout the state.

19           So I appreciate the opportunity to  
20 speak on behalf of the Illinois Environment Council  
21 for that. And that's all. Thank you.

22           GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, Deonte.  
23 We appreciate your thoughts.

24           With that, we have more speakers left

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1 than we have time for. It's been 60 minutes.

2 Chris, will you please post for the  
3 November -- Thursday, November 17th, 7:00 p.m.  
4 listening session to continue?

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Yes. We hope  
6 to have that posting today. We hope to capture  
7 everybody who was on this list, the phone numbers  
8 and the other emails. Joe Duffy, Eric Heineman,  
9 Karen Youngblood, and Samantha Costanzo, I think we  
10 can reach out to you. You had your hands raised,  
11 and we will do that this afternoon. Thank you.

12 GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: And we are thrilled  
13 that everybody joined this call. We greatly  
14 appreciate the feedback that everybody has given us.  
15 Truly, truly amazing. Everything will be taken into  
16 consideration.

17 We look forward to many more comments  
18 on Thursday, November 17th, starting at 7:00 p.m.  
19 Please be on the lookout for the details of that, as  
20 Chris will post it. And, again, I thank you all for  
21 your time, your very thoughtful comments, and I look  
22 forward to hearing more from all of you and more  
23 Thursday evening, November 17th.

24 With that, Mark?

1                   ASSOCIATE GC MARK MEYER: Again, this is  
2 Mark Meyer. Chair Hobert, Executive Director  
3 Meister, the time is 12:02 p.m. This agency  
4 listening session is adjourned.

5                   GUEST CHAIR HOBERT: Thank you, everybody.

6                   EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEISTER: Thank you.

7                                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
8 matter concluded at 12:02 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
2 COUNTY OF COOK )  
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4 I, Holly A. Koch, CSR, RPR, do certify  
5 that I am a licensed Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
6 duly qualified and certified by the State of  
7 Illinois;

8 That the above-entitled matter was by me  
9 recorded stenographically at the time and place  
10 herein mentioned, and the foregoing pages constitute  
11 a full, true, complete, and correct record of the  
12 testimony given.

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Dated: November 10, 2022



Holly Koch  
Illinois CSR No. 084004925