

HR2971 SAMPLE TALKING POINTS/OP-ED PIECE

You can modify this sample piece to suit your needs:

TO: The Editor:

It is baffling why the rush to lift the moratorium on new nuclear construction (HB 2971) when:

- 1.) there STILL is no demonstrated environmentally acceptable means of permanent geologic disposal of high-level radioactive wastes (the reason the moratorium was instituted), and new construction would add to the inventory with no place for the added wastes to go except onsite next to Illinois rivers;
- 2.) there is currently no need in Illinois for the extra power, which would be sold on the market benefiting Exelon Corporation while potentially inflicting all the negative aspects of nuclear power on the residents and ratepayers of Illinois; and
- 3.) new nuclear construction totally, deliberately undercuts and sabotages the recently passed Renewable Energy Portfolio standards legislation of 25% renewable energy by 2020 by denying the vitally needed market share that would help reduce costs of renewables via economies of scale.
- 4.) Finally -- since according to Exelon Corporation no new reactor is currently formally proposed in Illinois, there is no need to rush.

It would seem that this is thinly veiled attempt to once again sabotage Illinois' pursuit of a renewable energy future -- one that does not have the risks of nuclear waste, accident, and high costs associated with it.

The California state legislature just defeated two such unreasonable proposals. So should the Illinois legislature.

Follow the law -- get to 25% renewables and dispose of the 8,000 tons of high level radioactive wastes FIRST; then discuss lifting the moratorium.