



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT AND CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING STATE PASSAGE OF THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT**

*City calls upon Governor J.B. Pritzker and Illinois General Assembly to create a cleaner,
more equitable state with city support and compliance*

CHICAGO—Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Chicago City Council today approved a resolution urging the Governor of the State of Illinois and the Illinois General Assembly to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA). The resolution also supports the implementation of CEJA with an immediate focus for Chicago to support statewide goals of 100% renewable energy by 2025, shifting to a carbon-free power sector by 2030, reducing gas and diesel vehicles from the transportation sector and fostering economic opportunity for all residents.

“We have a responsibility to fight the global climate crisis by making Chicago more accountable and environmentally sustainable,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “The Clean Energy Jobs Act not only gives us the opportunity to improve Chicago’s own environmental stewardship, it also allows us to reimagine how our energy infrastructure can better serve our most vulnerable residents through equitable access to new jobs and opportunities for our families.”

Today’s resolution builds upon an ordinance passed earlier in 2019 that established the City’s 100% renewable energy goals for an equitable energy transition. Chicago’s energy goals established that all buildings in the City will run on renewable energy by 2035, and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) will electrify its entire bus fleet by 2040. The City’s commitment to clean energy practices will stimulate several local economic sectors, and passage of the Clean Energy Jobs Act will further expand the City’s access to renewable energy sources.

There are currently 90,000 energy efficiency jobs and over 120,000 clean energy jobs in Illinois. In the Spring of 2019, CEJA (SB2132/HB3624) was introduced to guide Illinois in achieving a carbon-free power sector by 2030, putting the state on the path to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050. CEJA is expected to save the State a potential \$700 million per year from gas energy efficiencies while generating



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nearly \$50 billion in net benefits from 2030-2035 and more than \$30 billion from new investments.

Clean and renewable energy provides substantial benefits for our climate, public health and economy, and it is the way of the future. CEJA will lead to healthier communities by improving air and water quality through expanding access to clean energy careers, building wealth in disadvantaged communities and ensuring new opportunities to continue building a new clean energy economy. Investments needed to integrate more renewables will be made in a manner that ensures reliability of the system and the benefits of clean and renewable energy are enjoyed by all residents.

“Chicago currently ranks as the third worst city in the nation in terms of new childhood respiratory illnesses, which have been caused by air pollution from fossil-fueled power plants, as well as gas and exhaust from diesel trains, buses, trucks and cars,” said Alderman George Cardenas, Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy. “It is our responsibility to mitigate pollution and restore healthy air quality to residents.”

In 2016, the State of Illinois passed the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) to allow the creation of and investment into an equitable and just transition for a clean and renewable energy future. FEJA stimulated job creation, training and bolstered renewable energy markets, while attracting new businesses.

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