



# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

## State of Illinois Energy Transition Workforce Commission November 9, 2023 6 pm Minutes

### **Location:**

#### *In-person*

MAN-TRA-CON Corporation  
3117 Civic Circle Blvd  
Marion, IL 62959  
(Blue building across from Target Store)

#### *Virtual*

Zoom Video Conference

Link: <https://uis.zoom.us/j/81385029514?pwd=cHlWNTRpZFpvaXFjM0dHdmswdGZsQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 8502 9514

Password: 155031

### **Purpose**

The Energy Transition Workforce Commission was created by the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act "CEJA" (Public Act 102-0662). The Commission is charged with producing an Energy Transition Workforce Report that anticipates the impact of the energy transition on Illinois' workforce and provides recommendations to address changes to Illinois' workforce between 2020 - 2050. The Commission consists of CEJA Regional Administrators, leadership from multiple state agencies, and community leaders from Illinois' business, labor, and environmental justice communities.

The commission wishes to receive public testimony from communities throughout Illinois to inform the recommendations we will make at the end of the year. The Commission would like to hear the economic impact that a closure or transition of a facility has had on businesses, schools, and families.

### **Agenda:**

- I. Call to Order at 6:03 pm by Jason Keller, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission
  - a. Roll Call of Membership – Cody Pope (UIS), the following were present in person or via Zoom:  
Angela Morrison (not present)

Sameer Doshi  
Pat Devaney  
Lisa Jones (not present)  
Larry Dawson  
Nate Keener  
Shad Etchason (not present)  
Michelle Cerruti  
Jason Keller (Chair)  
Director Kristin Richards (not present)

- Chair Keller said thank you very much, Cody. A quorum has been established. This meeting will be conducted a little bit differently, although with all three of them, so there is some familiarity with the regional meetings. We applied the Open Meetings Act and posted the notice in a timely manner. So, what we will do is we will ask for public comment at the end of the meeting. We hope to hear from individuals here present and then, if any individuals on the Zoom wish to testify, you could please send a message to Cody and let him know, we will take your testimony as well. We do want to limit any testimonies to 3 to 5 minutes, if possible.

b. Introduction of members present - Jason Keller, Chair, Energy Transition Workforce Commission

- Chair Keller said I do want to very quickly allow Commission members that are present on the meeting here to introduce themselves and just a little bit about your backgrounds on the commission. I will start, and I will go to those in the room and then to those on Webex (Zoom).
- Chair Keller, Commissioners Cerruti, Keener, Devaney, Dawson, and Doshi gave brief introductions.
- Chair Keller said thank you so much and okay, I don't believe there were any other commissioners just making one last call. It's hard for me to look and see all the boxes, but I think everyone introduced themselves.

## II. Approval of Minutes from October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

- Chair Keller said with the indulgences of those present I would like to take care of one matter of business for the commission. The minutes for the East Peoria meeting were distributed to all of you by Tonda and I was wondering if I could get a motion to approve those minutes?
- Commissioner Keener motioned.
- Commissioners Dawson and Cerruti second the motion.
- Chair Keller said there is a second, so all in favor say aye, the motion passed. So, we will enter those in the record and post those online as well.

## III. Commission presentation on data analysis

- Chair Keller said with that I will probably move to the most boring part of the evening which is a presentation I'm going to give there are quite a few facts. But I do want to present those to those in the area and allow you the opportunity to see the research that has been done. With that I will share my screen on the and everyone should see the PowerPoint presentation.
- Chair Keller started his presentation at minute mark 06:34 on slide one.
- Chair Keller moved to slide two at minute mark 06:57.
- Chair Keller moved to slide three at minute mark 07:47. Also, said I do want to stop there and give full credit to Dr. Ken Kriz from the University of Illinois, Springfield. He's been phenomenal to work with is and responsible for and building most if not all of the research.
- Chair Keller moved to slide four at minute mark 08:42.
- Chair Keller moved to slide five at minute mark 09:39.

- Chair Keller moved to slide six at minute mark 10:13. Said this one's pretty tiny, so I do apologize.
- Chair Keller moved on to slide seven at minute mark 11:53.
- Chair Keller moved to slide eight at minute mark 13:22.
- Chair Keller moved to slide nine at minute mark 14:06.
- Chair Keller moved to slide ten at minute mark 14:16.
- Chair Keller moved to slide eleven at minute mark 14:33.
- Chair Keller moved to slide twelve at minute mark 15:08.
- Chair Keller moved to slide thirteen at minute mark 15:50.
- Chair Keller moved to slide fourteen at minute mark 17:18.
- Chair Keller moved to slide fifteen at minute mark 17:37. Added that the commission will gather to put forward recommendations.
- Chair Keller moved to slide sixteen (last slide of presentation with his contact information) at minute mark 18:03.
- Chair Keller said I would like to open it up to commission members if they wish to add anything to the presentation. Okay I'm hearing none. Before I go too much further, I do want to say my thank yous. First to MAN-TRA-CON for hosting us tonight.... (inaudible). I have to say thank you to Amanda Pankau who is in the room -- has been very helpful putting these things together. As has Commissioner Cerruti... (inaudible) and so I would like to thank you for all your assistance.

#### IV. Public Comment

- Chair Keller said with that I'm going to open it up for public comments, I will start here in the room first then I will go to anyone on Zoom to see if they wish to speak. So, I'll start with you if you could state your full name and the organization you represent to begin.
- Toni Oplt said I currently serve on the Executive Committee for Sierra Club Piasa Palisades Group, and I chair the Metro East Green Alliance. And thank you very much for having us here and giving us a chance to contribute to your work. I live near the Village of East Alton in the Metro East area, and I've spent years fighting fossil fuel owners of the Wood River power station. Thanks to CEJA, East of Alton, where the power station stood for decades now had its energy transition grant. Something Sierra Club and MEGA worked hard with others like Amanda to secure. When the Wood River power station shut down in 2016, it came as a big surprise to the workers. Dynegy denied that it was going to close that plant until the day that it literally locked the gates and told the workers to go home. And Dynegy and its money losing plant was then acquired by Vistra, and several years later Vistra sold that to Commercial Liability Partners, and its subsidiary CTI. So along the way there was no community dialogue. No plans shared on demolition or safety or timeline, no indication of what new business might be built on that site, no effort to engage the community so that it could express what it needed and wanted, and no transparency of ongoing company activity. Today that site stands in rubble with 4 unlined coal ash ponds on a flood plain, that is feet from the Mississippi River. So, the first idea I wanted to share is that the company making its exit should be held accountable for informing community on how it is handling that closure. Communities have a right and a real need to understand what will be left on their doorstep and what options are available to them. I'll note that East Alton, because of the clause in Dynegy's original contract, will not be able to build out a solar energy site on the riverside property that, by the way, faces an unobstructed Southern vista and has a grid connection just be away. What might have been a viable solution to new business, and with new jobs and clean energy is not possible there. So, companies should be transparent as communities decide how best to invest these grant dollars. Companies should have their -- communities should have every option available to them as they strive to recover. Companies must be held accountable to laws covering coal ash, pollution, water, monitoring, and reclamation. We had no luck getting anyone from industry to come to the table for a discussion in East

Alton. But the mess companies leave behind will significantly impact how the funds will need to be spent to make the air, the water, and the soil clean and safe after they are gone. So, companies should be forced to come to the table and honestly explain to communities what's being handed to them. The economic impact on East Alton was about 80% of their public works budget and their immediate neighbors, along with them, suffered in terms of tax revenue loss, reduced services and cuts to school board districts and substantial loss. And having a better industry partner would have helped them. But once CEJA was put in place and passed and the support became possible, East Alton began to have a little bit of hope and it now will have a chance that new businesses, opportunities add a job, and perhaps more stable city government. Had they been a bit more open to working with their neighbors in Alton and Wood River, they might have gained even more. But Alton is chosen, for instance, as a site for one of the workforce hubs. The region could have shared in the prosperity and increased its wealth, but East Alton was not willing to share. So, in addition to hearing what communities need and want, the Commission might do well to help them strategize, to work together, to build on a regional economic development rather than acting narrowly, as if the impact of a plant closure only affected the people in the plant where it physically existed. Providing support in terms of listening to what community members need and say and helping them achieve those benefits will be critical to turning grant money into wealth building over time. The more cities and towns prosper from funding, the wider that wealth will grow. It is also important, I think, to consider long term benefits to the closure of a coal plant. We tend to focus on loss of jobs, revenue and effective businesses -- but we seldom think about the gains, better environmental health and community health. For the Metro East, where some of the worst air pollution in the state exists long term the absence of a coal plant, and the emergence of renewable energy will restore not only the economy, but the health of the human population and the fragile ecosystem along the Mississippi River. While there are still environmental hazards that remain at the Wood River site, the positive impact on air quality, water quality, and standard of living will make the region stronger financially and environmentally. Eco-tourism for river towns here can grow. Parents will miss fewer days of work, children fewer days of school. Childhood asthma, which has some of the highest rates in Madison County, where East Alton is located, will hopefully fall. So, when meeting with communities that are certainly and rightly preoccupied with loss, helping them envision gain, bringing in the medical community, the schools, people who see their part of the world in better shape without coal and help them build the wealth from there. CEJA is an amazing piece of legislation; it requires creative and dedicated people from within these communities to make it work. This is the task, as I see: to encourage and guide and listen, and to support, including helping communities sort through the legacy harm of fossil fuel and how to improve overall health. Thanks very much for listening.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments, and I do want to praise all three of the individuals who all want to give public comment in the room here: they all sent me written testimony. So that was very nice of you to do.
- Virginia Woulfe Beile said I'm from Godfrey, Illinois, -- Alton area -- and really kind of telling the same story because Toni and I worked on this literacy transition together. So again, thanks for the opportunity to speak. And yes, I'm here to share that transition story. So, I'm the Three Rivers Project Co-Coordinator, for the year Sierra Club Illinois, my offices is in Alton, Illinois, and it's very near the shuttered Wood River station --the plant that was owned by Dynegy Generation. So, the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal team began community transition campaign on that plant in 2014 you know, after determining that that plant was likely to close due to poor economic performance. And so, we began as a team calling on community leaders to start planning for the inevitable transition of that aging power plant because it was over 50 years old. It had, you know, no pollution control retrofits, and you know we're in talks with Dynegy about a path towards retirement that would provide transition for the workers. Also, that we're going to be cleaning up our air and water and to revitalize the community. So

also, you know, collaborating on a transition plan that was best for our community and working with unions for the closure to help what was best path for the workers at the plant. And so, while the Sierra Club and the Metro East Green Alliance, the Metro East Green Alliance really kind of grew out of this campaign, I would say primarily, if I remember this meeting this, I met this awesome woman. So, we were engaging with elected officials and other community leaders about the probability of the plant closing. We even flew in the CEO for a Town Hall meeting, and you know, he stood there lying to us all. So yeah, you know, East Alton, Alton, Wood River all these? This community was like, oh, you know, what's you know? Someone you know the sky is falling. You know, they were like the plant's fine. So, you know, we stayed in there, kept saying well, we really think by going to you know, monitoring the shareholder meetings these plants really going to close and anyway, getting the push back, getting the push back. So, it really made our transition work almost impossible because we had the CEO saying, oh, there's nothing going on it's business as usual. So anyway, they denied the intent, you know, and so this really left the community, not just the workers. So, you know, of course, we think of the workers because they're immediately affected. But you know, we're talking to schools and municipalities about the tax implications, and maybe they need step down plans. You know, there were a lot of discussions going on, and you know, while this was going on, Dynegy was sold to Vistra, turned around and sold it to Commercial Liability Partners, and it was like a shell game of accountability. So, when we would have questions, you know. It's like, oh, sorry, you know we sold that up. There was never anyone to go to. So that was you know, very frustrating. And it took a lot of time and energy too, we spent so much time, you know, trying to engage in conversations about site remediation, and coal ash clean up and eventually plant demolition day. We weren't even kind of thinking of it at first in this transition process, and then plant demolition became a huge issue. So, then it was interesting how we found out that the plant was going to even be demolished, and when it was going to be demolished; it was a chance conversation, you know, with that, you know, that someone had with one of the firefighters like, oh, they're going to blow the stacks, you know. It's like, oh, yeah, when is that going to happen? I think a lot of people in this room know that stack implosion -- part of a plant demolition - can go very wrong and has gone very wrong. So, anyway, there was so much confusion and lack of information around jurisdiction and permitting in the demolition process, and there was no regulation around, you know there's just no one to go to. We were calling, you know, we from IEPA to local municipalities. Building and Zoning says permits for this, what's the notice? But there, you know, we just came up with nothing. And even after there was an attractive land that was part of the coal plant footprint. That was a riverfront property that actually had very quality, riverine forest and wildlife habitat that was bulldozed with no Army Corps of Engineers' permit. So, there's all kinds of crazy stuff going on the site. And you know, we know there's a lot of coal communities that will be facing plant and mine closure in the coming years. And so, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act has permitted about -- provisions to support the just transition of these communities and workers. And after the Wood River station closure as Toni talked about, the Host City, East Alton had some opportunity to apply for and receive transition funds, but I think because there wasn't a lot of information around how the grant funding was distributed, they were very proprietary about it. So, I think some more like education around that would really be important, you know, as Toni said, there would have been wider benefit, wider community region, wide benefit. So, I think that's something that really needs to be addressed. So, I guess on to really like building out the workforce hubs -- dissemination and you know, clarity of information in order to engage with various organizations, agencies, and individuals who will be tasked with you know, building the local infrastructure to you know, even to respond to like the RFIs and the notices of funding opportunities. So, I think it's daunting a lot of times, and I think a lot of the people that we and organizations that we want to bring to the table don't have the resources a lot of times to engage in government grant writing and such. So, I think that's a real barrier. Let's see, I don't want to - don't want to have to repeat a lot of

things. But I think achieving inclusivity may offer less conventional application process and more agency outreach of course. And I really do a lot of you know, what we're doing to create these hubs, it's like, you know, we threw out the old playbook because we needed to, because we needed to be more inclusive and bring in you know, parts of our community that have not been able to benefit in past emerging economies and such. So, it's not business as usual, so I think sometimes, and I know it on one end, I know you're getting a little bit off – and I know I'm running long -- but push back about taking so long for the implementation. But I think that's it's kind of how it has to be, because we're writing a new playbook and the important thing is that we are inclusive and then and you know, it's really written in environmental justice. So, I get it you know, it's a new thing. So, anyway, the goal of the Illinois transition, that Illinois transition for fossil fuel, cleaner air and water, which will lead to healthier communities or lower rates of asthma, cancer, respiratory diseases, so local economies will thrive with a healthier population. So, you know, renewable energy -- they'll enjoy renewable energy and restored ecosystems. So, with all that said thought, we still need, you know better Federal regulations on coal plants (inaudible). I know this is not your failure, but you know that removal or remediation and because, like Toni said... four unlined ponds are still at Wood River (inaudible). Transparency and safety regulations at all stages of transition from fossil fuel to clean renewable energy and then safeguards for environmental justice communities like in the Metro East where the compounded pollution causes daily hardships, illness, and death. So, communities most impacted by legacy, pollution, and loss of jobs and revenue should be among the first to receive the benefits of the growing clean energy economy. So, thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments. Would you like to go next?
- Amanda Pankau from Prairie Rivers Network said yes, I'm going to be sharing some comments that we worked on with that JUST Transition subcommittee and Jobs and Economic Justice subcommittee of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. As Jason mentioned. I did email them, I'm not going to read all of them verbatim, and I might add a little commentary of my own. But the official ones for the record, I say, would be the one that we've emailed and then Anthony will share a little bit more. So, I just wanted to start by asking if the Commission, in their report could provide some clarification on the many factors, primarily economic, that had contributed to the decline of coal and the growth of renewables in Illinois? So, in the report and like in in the slides tonight, it often talks about the effects of the CEJA plant closures. So, a little story from me: Anthony and I were with the Southern Illinois School Board a week or two ago, and we're with the new Ameren program manager for CEJA's carbon-free, healthy schools' assessments, free assessment program for schools. And we're talking to the school Board about how they can get this free energy assessment. Very first words out of one of the school member's mouths after I shared a little bit about why, why we're there was, did you write the legislation that closed the coal mines? We talked about CEJA, and you know he's not -- we're there with this great new program, and that's where he goes. And ultimately, we had a good conversation and the school decided to move forward with the program. Re - ROE 20 is going to be one of the first school regions to get that CEJA program. So, anyway, so how we talk about these closures is important and the kind of sentiment in Illinois, particularly Southern Illinois. The CEJA mandated these when, in fact, the Coffeen plant, the Hennepin, Duck Creek, Havana, Waukegan, Joppa, Edwards plants were all closed before, or the closures were announced before CEJA passed. The partial closures of Dallman -- the power plant here in Southern Illinois -- were closed before CEJA and or announced before CEJA, and then even the Baldwin, Newton, Kincaid closures were announced before CEJA, and, in fact, they're closing 3 to 5 years before CEJA would mandate their closure. So, it'd be great if there would -- the Phase 2 report could provide a little bit more clarification. Maybe not always talk about CEJA plant closures, knowing that CEJA's not always driving this. And there's a lot of other factors. This is very important, for you know you're up -- so happy to be in the room with you to the CEJA administrators. You know, for your work, for our work and with



community leaders on, we've got to tackle these problems. And there's a lot of problems, but there's also this new opportunity. And sometimes things like that can distract from it. So, I think that Phase 2 report could provide us with some language, some, you know, confirmation from the state that, in fact, you know, this transition is a much bigger picture that's been underway for a long time now, especially, including if you're talking about the coal mines, too you know, we've had boom and bust of the coal industry for decades. Okay, so moving on a little bit to tax revenue loss: the Phase One report looks at the average annual tax revenue loss for coal and gas plants. I think it would be helpful, and I think maybe what you mentioned today, it sounds like you guys are going to look at it more at a community level. But you know, the average doesn't tell us much, because all these closures aren't going to happen at once. You know, we're going to see some more coal plants come offline and then the gas plants. So, looking at the loss by the year. I think, would make more sense, and would give us a bit more data would be the DCEO some data to think ahead on their Energy Transition Community Grant program where they're giving out the grants based on tax revenue losses. So, in some years they're going to have a lot of communities applying with a lot of loss. Maybe the grants would be smaller per community and that would just be helpful to plan ahead. Maybe we need some changes to that grant program to account for years where we're going to have a lot of loss like in the grant period looks forward to closures in the next six years and back to closures that happen in the past six years. So, I think DCEO could use some help on understanding the scale of revenue loss as they manage that grant program. Because there's some years where communities are going to get a lot and some years where there's a lot of closures where, when you divvy that money out, communities won't get as much. The Phase One report talked about the lack of information about where future wind and solar projects will happen. So, we have, you know, an idea of the amount of tax revenue, but not exactly where it will be. I thought it would be interesting for the Commission to examine some of the incentives that are driving clean energy investments into energy communities like CEJAs Coal to Solar Program. There's an energy community tax credit adder, a 10 percent adder to the Federal tax credits for solar and maybe make some recommendations on policies like that will drive investment into those regions and wind and solar. I wanted to move on and talk about coal mining. Folks are always surprised to know that Illinois, the nation's fourth largest coal producing state, still mine a lot of coal in Illinois, and now we have coal plant, closure announcements for all our coal plants. But the same is not true for coal mines. We don't have an understanding of when our mines are going to close, and the Phase One report acknowledges that that we have no sense of when the mines might be closed. But I think there are factors out there that we could use to predict the decline of the coal mining industry. I encourage the Commission to work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. They manage coal mine permitting in Illinois. You know they have an understanding of what coal mines have permits, might find out how much coal, how long that might take them. If it's likely they'll expand those permits. You know there's a lot of information out there about State, National, International, Coal markets. There was a 2019 report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis that looked at the Illinois Basin in particular and made some projections about the decline in the next 20 years. So just would encourage maybe a little bit more insight into what Illinois coal mining industry is facing. We've got a lot of recoverable reserves. But will they be mined based on the way full markets are going. You've heard our wonderful partners talk a little bit about coal ash and power plant demolition and redevelopment. Would encourage Phase 2 report to dive in. I know it's going to look at environmental impacts a little bit more so particularly coal ash. Possibly communicate with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. We have some really great state coal ash regulations. With a bit of uncertainty on where it is. The ball's kind of in IEPA's court. So, some coordination and communication to communities around what to expect around that would be good. And then, yeah, they covered power plant demolition and redevelopment, and unfortunately, like what you heard from them, CEJA didn't change that. We still have this uncertainty around demolition and clean up. They're really only subject to

asbestos regulations, and then the - any local requirements the municipalities or counties might have. So, these communities are at risk, and unprepared to oversee these implosion demolitions. You know very little ability to provide info on redevelopment. So that could be something that the Commission could look into to make recommendations on how state policy could protect the public and environment during that phase of the process. There was a piece of legislation in Spring of 2023: House Bill 3595, that the Commission might look at for potential ideas and policy recommendations. Similarly, the Commission could make recommendations related to how these sites could be redeveloped and reused. We have an example of CEJA's Coal to Solar Program. There's existing infrastructure on and adjacent to these sites that could be good for redevelopment purposes. I heard the same thing from leaders in Southern Illinois with the coal mines. The coal mines do have a very thorough reclamation process through the Department of Natural Resources, but there's never really been any coordination. There are rail loops on these sites and a lot of electric infrastructure. How can we be thinking about the closure of these lines, and then possible maintenance of that type of infrastructure for projects in the future. I'll let Anthony share a little bit more on the workforce side of things. But we did just meet with another school superintendent, and I just wanted to share a couple kind of questions or thoughts we got from him, one being he was a recipient of the Energy Transition Community Grants last year, and he's asking all sorts of questions about next year and how much they'll be eligible for -- which mine closures in their area will make them eligible. In this case, last year the Galatia and Peabody closure and Saline County made them eligible; this year, the Galatia closure is outside their window. So, he wondered well, how last year how did the money break down between those two mines? Anyway, anything DCEO could do to better communicate with the potential entities that are eligible for that grant, so they can plan ahead a little bit more. It sounds like the NOFO will come out in January; if they could publish a list of the mines that will be eligible before then, or something like that where they can be thinking, okay, we're going to be eligible. Or not this year. And then other things completely random that he mentioned, I just thought was interesting and kind of reminded me of the Phase One report, and we're seeing just the tremendous growth in renewable energy jobs. There's a big solar project -- 2,500 acres solar project proposed just north of the town where this school is, and they're getting ready to build it. They're going to have, like 600 workers coming into town. And he said, it's a big conversation in the community about where are these people going to be housed? And there's all this coordination that needs to be done -- totally outside my wheelhouse. So, it's really interesting to hear him talk about it. But you know, for small rural communities. They're not used to that. So, what types of resources could we provide them, best practices, points of contact to help them manage large workforce increases like that in a short period of time. Okay, I'll stop it there.

- Anthony Henson from Prairie Rivers Network said I'll be testifying tonight in support of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition. I'll be covering two subjects, the first of which is clean energy workforce. As we know, the growth of the Illinois Clean Energy Workforce will be crucial in ensuring; that we meet the State's goal of providing a just transition for communities. We commend the Commission for highlighting the shift that lies ahead in the energy job market in it's Phase One report. But we do know that the speed of which CEJA workforce and contractor programs are being implemented is hampering our workforce transition. In its Phase 2 report the Commission should encourage DCEO to speed up CEJA communication. As of early November 2023, none of the CEJA workforce programs are up and running. In fact, contracts to run the programs have not been awarded either and we are currently two years out on the passage of CEJA. Some NOFOs have yet to be released: these include the Returning Residents Clean Jobs Program and the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program. The slow pace of implementation is hampering Illinois' just and equitable workforce transition in a serious way. Since the passage of CEJA, additional Federal funds coming from the Inflation Reduction Act and the BIL - the bipartisan infrastructure law can also help build up the resources needed to implement these workforce programs. The Commission



should collaborate with DCEO and other pertinent agencies like the Illinois Finance Authority, to identify which Federal grants the State is pursuing, and how these funds might be used to complement State workforce funds. Having an inventory of the Federal funds available to the State, and which agencies would receive support for these programs is a crucial step to ensure that we effectively build out the Illinois clean energy workforce. The second subject that I will cover tonight is Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights. CEJA had created a Displaced Energy Worker Bill of Rights to provide information, support, and services to displaced energy workers. The Bill of Rights and associated services and programs are to be implemented by DCEO in collaboration with the Department of Employment Security. The Commission may consider working with DCEO and IDES to provide a summary of how this program and these rights are being implemented, and where the public and workers can go to learn more about information of where it is available. Lastly, the Commission should also consider providing a list of local workforce services and training opportunities, particularly in the locations where job losses will be the highest. Thanks for your time.

- Chair Keller said thank you both very much for that; going to be very helpful. Is there anyone else here in person seeking testimony? Okay hearing none. Cody, I may turn to you then, and to see if anyone has asked to give testimony on Zoom.
- Cody (UIS) said I have not received any message for a request.
- Chair Keller said okay, with that we will go ahead and close up the public comment period.
- Chair Keller said I do want to turn to commission members and appraise (inaudible) the public as well. Dr. Kriz has indicated in his phase 2 report statistics should be completed next week and that we should have an opportunity to view those as the Commission and discuss those and ask questions of him. I don't know that I'm going to schedule a meeting for next week. We'll give an opportunity for that to be distributed to Commissioners, to review, and then I'll try to pull folks together some kind of after Thanksgiving holiday. I will also then work on an initial recommendation document based upon these three regional hearings. I would welcome any Commissioner's help if you will. I can start a draft, but I would certainly, if you have any thoughts, welcome sending those to me in an email and I would incorporate those, of course, into my draft document. I do intend for the Commission to meet probably twice between, following Thanksgiving and towards the end of the year to finalize recommendations for the phase 2 report as well. Whether or not those have to be in person. I'll leave it up to the Commission, if you feel like we want to convene and work in person we can certainly do so. I do want to ask Commission members then as well for your thoughts: you can offer them now or if you want to offer them later...
- Cody (UIS) said Chair Keller I apologize we did have one last second request for a public comment if we still have time and availability?
- Chair Keller said I'll finish this up then we'll go on to.... Looks like it's Lauren ... ok just want to, after Lauren is finished speaking, perhaps offer Commissioners who want to speak about what the mission of the Commission could look like following the release of the phase 2 reporting recommendations. I personally, I don't know if there's much work left to be done that's mandated by the statute, but I welcome others and their thoughts on convening once or twice a year in 2024, we can certainly do so. So, leaving that aside, I will turn to Lauren to provide public testimony as she wishes.
- Lauren Becker said good evening, folks. I serve as the Planner and Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Carbondale, Illinois. So just about a half an hour from where you're at and I wanted to share: Commission members, thank you for engaging in this site visit to Southern Illinois, it speaks volumes. Previous speakers have provided fantastic recommendations surrounding the report itself. In particular, I would like to second the statements made by Amanda Pankau of Prairie Rivers Network. Our economic stability as a region will truly be dependent on where our next generation of community members choose to dedicate their labor and it is becoming increasingly apparent that they intend to find meaningful and fulfilling labor in the just clean energy transition, if the opportunities are made available

to them. In addition, I would like to share with you three very high-level insights to inform your work at this moment, the first being we recognize that it has never been a question of whether renewable energy is coming to Southern Illinois. It's already here the question has always been, who benefits, and we are determined to ensure that our recovering energy communities benefit. Number two, please do not write us off, in downstate. I know that you, you very much, your actions are showing that you're not, but it's important. The perception that many have of rural and recovering energy communities pushing back against renewable energy as a matter of principle, is largely misunderstood. Our community members have very legitimate concerns surrounding private, out of State, single use installations going up in our counties with no consideration for the longevity of our local communities and our local economies. This comes from a place of commitment to ensuring responsible land stewardship, agriculture, and local dollar flow. However, this collection of concerns are not automatic stops to renewable energy development; renewable energy, and our rural values are not at odds, and we simply want to ensure that we make this transition on our terms. And that third and final point I'd like to second another previous speaker's sentiment regarding regional prosperity, and I apologize that I didn't catch your name. I believe you were our first speaker. The age of competition in Southern Illinois is over. We are in an age of collaboration; we recognize that the water lifts all boats. What's good for East Saint Louis and Alton is good for Carbondale. What's good for Carbondale is good for Marion, and so on, and so on. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your labor. We see the work that you're doing day in and day out and we appreciate it. Thank you.

- Chair Keller said thank you very much for your comments. I don't see anyone else on the Webex (Zoom) from the public or DCEO. So, I will go ahead and close up public comments. I will open up to commission members for any comments. That you wish to make your statements
- Commissioner Doshi said Chair Keller.
- Chair Keller said yes, sir, please proceed, Commissioner Doshi.
- Commissioner Doshi said thank you. Chair Keller. Firstly, thank you and your colleagues at the Department of Labor and the DCEO for organizing this important series of regional meetings with opportunities for the public to share their thoughts and experiences related to the energy transition. I think it's been an important function of our Commission to come out to these parts of the State and hear from affected, affected communities. With regard to the Phase 2 report that you and all of us are contemplating. I'll just reiterate a theme I've mentioned before, which is: for commission members to give meaningful input to the final report, I would ask that you thoughtfully schedule the coming meetings as well as the circulation of written drafts, so that commission members have a chance to review written material, and potentially provide written feedback and discuss the proposed report or partial reports at meetings in a well-informed way.
- Chair Keller said yes, I will respond to that. I will certainly do so. The latest information I have is that the initial report and findings will be done next week, and I will get those out to you guys as quickly as possible, and then, try to give you as much advance notice of future meetings as well. Commissioner Dawson were you going to say something, or do you wish to say something?
- Commissioner Dawson said no, no comment. Chairman.
- Chair Keller said perfect. Okay.
- Commissioner Keener said I also wanted to say thanks to all the speakers that came out today. I wanted to respond to your kind of question about future work. And it occurs to me that, you know, especially for these later meetings. For both providing recommendations for Phase 2 it seems like, maybe the timing is not quite right, for some of these recommendations be included in Phase 2 reports. So, I'm wondering if we could meet to discuss some of these other recommendations, you know, and have that be part of our agenda moving into 2024.

- Chair Keller said so yeah, I'll have to look at the different timelines that we're mandated to report by. (inaudible). I will definitely put some draft recommendations together so that we have something to consider. I'm fine with looking at the 2024 calendar and consider adding additional meetings. Any other comments from commission members?
  - Commissioner Cerruti said just thank you all for coming, providing your testimony. It's very, very important, and I'm very excited to be part of this team, especially representing Southern. So, I want to make sure you all have my number and contact information.
- V. Adjournment
- Chair Keller said I would entertain a motion to adjourn, if no one else is wishing to speak.
  - Commissioner Keener motioned to adjourn.
  - Chair Keller asked is there a second?
  - Commissioner Devaney seconded the motion.
  - Chair Keller said all in favor please say aye.
  - All voted aye, the motion passed.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.
- VI. Future meeting dates
- a. December 6th at 11 am
  - b. Discussion of other dates given the work ahead- was mentioned at minute mark 53:15.

Minutes submitted by: Tonda Reece, UIS on 11/20/2023

Materials:

1. 11/9 meeting audio [Energy Transition Workforce Meeting 11/9-Zoom](#)
2. Energy Transition Workforce Commission PowerPoint presentation