



Remarks by Jacky Grimshaw
Capital Bill signing by Governor Pat Quinn
July 13, 2009

Good afternoon Governor, Mayor, General Assembly members, fellow participants, members of the public and news media.

The state capital bill which the Governor is signing into law today is very much needed, provides a major opportunity to create good jobs and make our communities cleaner, greener, healthier, and better positioned to profit in the energy economy of the future. On behalf of a coalition of environmental groups that met with Governor Quinn's staff on several occasions advocating for incorporating energy and environmental investments into the state's capital budget, I just want to say thank you to them, the Governor and members of the General Assembly for listening and being responsive.

Paying more in taxes is not what most of us get up every morning wanting to do. But as responsible citizens, we understand that we must act in the common good. Residents of our state will benefit from the "green" funding streams included in this legislation.

Our green coalition advocated for five key areas where public investment would help us in achieving a sustainable future:

CLEAN ENERGY because energy efficiency projects can save homeowners, renters, businesses, and state and local governments' big dollars on energy costs. Investing in clean energy cleans the air, making it healthier air to breathe, and reduces pollution causing global warming

CLEAN WATER because investments in drinking water safety, and in protecting and restoring the natural systems that protect our water supply ensures safe drinking water supplies for the future.

TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP because all over Illinois, thousands of brownfields and leaking underground storage tank sites are impeding economic development and posing health and safety risks to neighbors. These dangerous eyesores can now be turned into assets.

OPEN SPACE because investments can be directed to Illinois places that are important for outdoor recreation and preserving Illinois' natural heritage; and

TRANSPORTATION because High Speed Rail and improved transit and Amtrak facilities will provide residents with transportation options that save fuel costs, reduce congestion and pollution and catalyze economic development.

Our coalition view the funding provided in this bill as a first step. It is not what the Governor initially called for in his Budget message. Nor does it fulfill the goals of the legislative environmental caucus. It does begin to address the significant hole left in capital investment since the expiration of Illinois First and for that the residents of Illinois can be hopeful.

Supporting Organizations:

Active Transportation Alliance
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago Jobs Council
Environment Illinois
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois PIRG
Metropolitan Planning Council
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Midwest High Speed Rail Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Openlands
OAI, Inc.
Prairie Rivers Network
Regional Transportation Authority
Respiratory Health Association
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
SOUL -Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation
The Nature Conservancy

FY10 Green Capital Projects

Building Energy Efficiency

- \$2.2B for state facilities construction and renovation, which includes new LEED buildings and energy efficiency upgrades
- \$1.7B for school construction, which is required to meet LEED Silver certification
- \$50m for school energy efficiency grants
- \$425m for Urban Weatherization

Renewable Fuels

- \$15m for renewable fuels
- \$5m for BMI for a bio-diesel plant
- \$5m for Robbins Community Power for a biomass to energy project

Water

- \$160m for the State Revolving Fund (clean water and drinking water projects)

Sustainable Transportation

- \$400m for high speed rail
- \$300m for CREATE
- \$150m for Amtrak (intercity rail)
- \$10m for vehicle electrification infrastructure
- \$3.8m for bike trails

Land

- \$25m for Open Land Trust
- \$8m for Mud to Parks
- \$43m for Brownfield redevelopment
- \$45m for Illinois River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- \$75m for LUST
- \$5m for the City of Chicago for the Salvation Army for Brownfield cleanup and remediation

Health and Well-Being

- \$5m for CLEAR-WIN (lead abatement program)
- \$10m for fresh foods