ESG Daily, AFFORDABLE ENERGY—Illinois businesses urge state lawmakers to pass Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, (Oct 29, 2025)

By Brad Rosen, J.D.

The law's backers describe the CRGA Act as nation-leading legislation designed to reduce electricity costs, modernize infrastructure, and position Illinois to better compete for business and investment.

As electricity rates continue to skyrocket in Illinois and across the nation for consumers and businesses alike, a group of Illinois businesses are imploring state legislators to pass the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability (CRGA) Act, which they assert presents a practical, forward-thinking path to address Illinois' most pressing energy challenges.

A deadline looms. The advocating businesses, which include Akamai Technologies, dsm-Firmenich, HA Sustainable Infrastructure (HASI), Leopardo Construction, Leopardo Energy, Rivian, and Sealed, issued a letter to members of the Illinois General Assembly supporting CRGA's immediate passage. If the bill is to be enacted, it must be passed by the state's General Assembly no later than Thursday, October 30, 2025. The letter writers note that the bill's passage will reduce electricity costs, modernize infrastructure, and put the state in a better position to compete for business and investment.

CRGA Act key features. CRGA Act key measures include the following such as:

- New requirements for utilities to consider upgrades to existing infrastructure that will allow it to operate more efficiently, providing more electricity without requiring expensive new power line construction;
- New programs to expand energy storage and implement virtual power plants that tap into extra power from homes and businesses, ensuring electricity is available affordably when it's needed most;
- New and improved energy efficiency programs to help individual households and businesses lower their energy bills while also reducing overall strain on the electric grid; and,
- New energy planning processes to prepare Illinois for the future, such as ensuring utilities are adequately prepared for the needs of new electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Modernizing infrastructure, expanding access, and preparing the grid for greater demand as energy costs rapidly increase. "CRGA presents a practical, forward-thinking path to address Illinois' most pressing energy challenges," wrote the signatories wrote in their letter. They continued, "By modernizing infrastructure, expanding access to clean and efficient energy solutions, and preparing the grid for increased energy demand, CRGA offers the tools needed to ensure Illinois' energy system is competitive, reliable, and aligned with businesses' plans for innovation and investment in smart technologies."

It should also be noted that electricity prices are growing at twice the rate of inflation. CRGA is a wide-ranging bill, built around a practical mix of technologies, tools, and policies to affordably and reliably address growing electricity demand, according to a press release issued by Ceres, a nonprofit advocacy organization that describes itself as working to accelerate the transition to a cleaner, more just, and resilient economy.

An opportunity for Illinois to lead on affordable energy coast to coast. Kelly Trombley, a senior director of state policy at Ceres observed, "The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act is not just a strategy to modernize Illinois' infrastructure and reduce costs. It is also a bellwether for the nation, and an opportunity for Illinois to lead on an issue that spans from coast to coast."

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