



**ILLINOIS  
CHAMBER**

# **ENERGY COUNCIL**

**STRONGER BUSINESS  
STRONGER ILLINOIS**

# ENERGY COUNCIL

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## **SOUND ENERGY POLICY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Energy—the foundation of what makes Illinois' economy work, what drives its growth and what dictates a major portion of our state's quality of life. Without access to a cost-competitive, reliable supply of energy, our economy has no chance to thrive.

The Illinois Chamber's Energy Council confronts and addresses energy related issues critical to the state's future. Our Energy Council members are the companies in Illinois that generate, transport and transmit energy, or are engaged in the energy portfolio (engineering, policy, legal and education). The members run the gamut of energy interests—natural gas, battery storage, crude oil, solar, coal, wind, utilities, pipelines and more.

The Chamber recognizes that these diverse organizations may have varying perspectives at times, but generally share a common view about the availability of energy in a predictable business, legislative and regulatory environment. The Council brings together industry experts to collaborate on these issues and educates and advocates to ensure Illinois' energy economy remains competitive.

## **ADVOCATE**

Illinois needs policies that encourage the development and availability of all kinds of energy in an environmentally-responsible and cost-competitive way. We engage the Illinois legislature and regulators on issues of importance to our membership and the operation of the energy economy. Throughout the process, the Council advocates for a fair playing field with a predictable business environment that encourages the development of energy resources and infrastructure to meet increasing demands, support reliability, keep energy costs competitive and attract business to Illinois.

## **EXPLORE**

The Energy Council hosts tours of energy facilities in Illinois, from wind and solar facilities to coal and nuclear plants, and more. These tours give Council members a chance to meet legislators and policymakers who attend the events to learn more about how energy works.



*BP America was one of the founding members of the Energy Council and continues to support the Council because it provides an opportunity to engage with smart people from all facets of the energy industry in our state and because it supports a realistic approach to energy policy – based on facts, science and technology.*



—Tom Wolf, BP America

## Recent Successes and Accomplishments

### LEARN

The Energy Council meets regularly to learn from each other and from outside perspectives. These meetings include discussions with key individuals from the state legislature, Illinois Commerce Commission, state and federal EPA, Congressional offices and members of the media. It's the only table in the state that includes the wide variety of Illinois energy interests.

### EDUCATE

The Energy Council educates our leaders on the energy choices that lie ahead and the solutions that will help Illinois' energy industry grow and prosper. We also talk to reporters, radio shows, editorial boards and write letters in an effort to raise awareness and win the day for a sound energy policy in Illinois.

### VOICES ON THE ENERGY COUNCIL

- Energy generators of all kinds
- Transmission companies and utilities
- Pipeline and other energy transportation interests
- Law firms
- Engineering firms
- Consulting firms
- Universities
- Policy advocates

- Passed legislation to prevent home rule communities from taxing or imposing a fee on the generation of electricity or the emissions from electric generation;
- Defeated legislation requiring state environmental laws and regulations to be as strict or more stringent than what is required at the federal level;
- Advocated for legislation setting stricter penalties for intentionally damaging critical infrastructure facilities;
- Successfully argued for limited co-location projects in the Long-Term Renewable Portfolio Plan;
- Prevented legislation mandating all construction work at private refining, ethanol, and chemical facilities be done by certain labor unions.



ALEC MESSINA

Alec is the Executive Director of the Energy Council. He engages local, state, and federal officials on key energy issues, advocating for smart energy policy that produces affordable, reliable energy in an environmentally sound manner. Further, Alec engages the legislature on other key business issues. Messina has 20 years of experience in environmental law, policy development and implementation, and legislative advocacy. He has worked closely with corporate senior executives, law firms, consultants, lobbyists, government affairs staff, and business development organizations to secure the necessary environmental permits and other authorizations for companies expanding in or relocating to Illinois.

## OTHER COUNCILS

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**THE EMPLOYMENT LAW COUNCIL** effectively represents Illinois business on employment law topics such as workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and other management/employee issues. It also pursues public policy actions that advance the interests and viewpoints of employers, and assists in creating a political climate conducive to improving Illinois' ability to create and retain jobs.

**THE HEALTHCARE COUNCIL** develops and takes actions to achieve affordable, accessible, efficient, and high-quality healthcare for the employers and residents of our state. The council represents employers in seeking market-based approaches to help them provide affordable, quality healthcare coverage for their employees, and works closely with providers to help strengthen Illinois' healthcare system.

**THE INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL** focuses on public systems that are essential to Illinois business; roads and bridges, railways (freight and public transit), shipping via waterways and airports. The council is seeking new members to initiate efforts for water supply and treatment, utilities, pipelines, power generation, power distribution systems and communications networks. All of these systems impact the civic, social, and economic

**THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL** focuses on building strategic partnerships to maximize the resources of the Illinois Chamber's members to expand in foreign markets and foster trade and investment in Illinois. The International Business Council's outreach includes Illinois businesses and a global network of local and foreign chambers of commerce, along with state and federal agencies and high-level political and diplomatic circles.

**THE TAX INSTITUTE** is an operating division of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The council's mission is to aggressively and pro-actively promote the interests of the Illinois business community by advocating pro-business tax policies at the federal, state, and local level that will enable Illinois businesses to grow and prosper.

**THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COUNCIL** seeks to aggressively and proactively promote the interests of the Illinois technology community by advocating for public policy that fosters innovation and promotes economic growth. The council seeks to promote workforce development policies, advocate for world-class technology infrastructure, avoid overregulation on the industry and support innovators access to the capital they need to grow.

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