



CONSUMERS ORGANIZED FOR **RELIABLE** ELECTRICITY

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## **Energy demand will skyrocket during the next decade.**

*The demand for power will continue to rise, but without a restructured electricity industry, reliability may not follow.*

➤ **Illinois' electricity consumption increased consistently from 1997 through 2003.**

According to the Energy Information Administration, between 1997 and 2003, Illinois' electricity use steadily increased at an annual rate of more than 1 percent. That is enough electricity to power more than 9,600 city blocks, each with 20 houses, for a year.

➤ **Energy consumers depend on reliable electricity to operate their businesses.**

Large electricity customers such as hospitals consume an average of 22,500 megawatt hours a year, and large industrial customers consume an average of 390,000 MWh of electricity a year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. (One standard 100-watt light bulb burning for 10,000 hours equals one MWh.) It takes an average of 1,080 MWh to provide energy to a high-rise apartment annually. In order to continue to support those large customers' energy needs, utility companies must invest in their infrastructures to ensure that business operations go uninterrupted.

➤ **Utilities need to invest in their infrastructure to ensure reliability.**

As electricity demands soared between 1997 and 2003, so did the need to build a more reliable and efficient electric infrastructure. As a result of this need, Illinois utilities have invested billions of dollars into their transmission and distribution systems to ensure electricity reliability. For instance, according to its testimony before the Illinois Commerce Commission, ComEd has invested approximately \$3 billion since June 2001.

As consumers continue to invest in technologies that consume more energy, Illinois' electric infrastructures must be prepared to meet future demands of customers. Continued restructuring will ensure a reliable infrastructure and a strong economy.



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