



CONSUMERS ORGANIZED FOR **RELIABLE** ELECTRICITY

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## **Restructuring increases energy diversification, creating numerous benefits for Illinois consumers.**

*Energy diversification is a proven result of electricity deregulation. As the Illinois electricity industry continues its transition to an open market, customers will benefit from the addition of new generators that provide reliable energy at a competitive price.*

### ➤ **An open market will lead to explosive growth in alternative generating technologies.**

Since the 1997 Restructuring Act took effect, several alternative utilities have entered the Illinois marketplace. According to the Illinois Commerce Commission, 18 new alternative electricity suppliers have already been approved and certified to operate throughout Illinois since 1999. The Illinois power industry is expected to continue this upward trend as long as a deregulated marketplace is upheld.

### ➤ **Attracting alternative electricity suppliers promotes energy diversification.**

Restructuring encourages a wide variety of electric service providers that are able to supply customers with a diverse range of power options. From 1999 to 2009, the Illinois fuel mix is expected to significantly reduce its reliance on coal and nuclear utilities, while greatly increasing its usage of environment-friendly renewable sources such as wind, natural gas and solar energy. According to the Energy Information Administration, from 1993 to 2002, natural gas generating capabilities in Illinois saw an annual growth rate of 21 percent, while other renewable sources combined had a 19 percent annual growth rate.

### ➤ **The benefits of energy diversification are tremendous.**

The advantages of having a diversified fuel mix cannot be denied. Allowing consumers to choose an energy resource that best fits their individual needs and preferences is among the numerous benefits of a varied fuel mix. In a time of steep energy demand, having multiple energy resources is a reliable and cost-effective way to meet growing energy needs.

Illinois must move toward open energy markets, and allow competition to lower prices and encourage innovation. Electricity restructuring is a smart choice for consumers and a necessity for meeting future energy needs.