



CONSUMERS ORGANIZED FOR RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

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## **The Illinois Commerce Commission will decide whether restructuring will resemble a New Jersey or California energy market.**

*The ICC is empowered to make sound policy decisions to fulfill the long-term interests of both electricity customers and utility companies. Other state regulatory commissions have either wavered or withstood political pressures on restructuring.*

- **"New Jersey customers are clearly reaping the benefits of competition."  
— New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Jeanne M. Fox**

In 1999, electric industry restructuring was enacted in New Jersey, implementing a "reverse auction" to ensure utilities were able to procure energy at the lowest prices possible through a competitive bidding process on the wholesale market. The auction attracted as many as 26 bidders, which led to 0.5 percent rate decreases in customer utility bills and later minimized rate increases to a mere 8 percent when electricity usage peaked and rate increases were projected to rise significantly higher, according to Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News.

According to the Energy Information Administration, as a result of restructuring, New Jersey's electricity rates dropped from the fifth-highest in the country to the 11<sup>th</sup> highest.

- **Politics wiped out reliable electricity in California.**

When politics took precedence over protecting the electricity infrastructure in California, the lights went out; the economy incurred billions of dollars in debt; the state's largest utilities went bankrupt and thousands of jobs were lost.

- **Using electricity shouldn't have to cost you *everything*.**

As electricity consumption and the price of energy continue to rise, restructuring offers the best solution to minimize rate increases, reliability risk and economic plight while ensuring efficient electric supplies keeps customer worries at bay.

The ICC has made sound policy decisions for the state's electric industry for nearly 100 years. With more than 15 states currently undergoing restructuring across the country to use as a model, Illinois should make sure the energy experts at an objective and informed ICC that is insulated from political pressure make critical decisions regarding the future of electricity pricing and delivery.