

ZION-BENTON AREA

REPRESENTATIVES & BUSINESS INTERESTS

DATE: February 29, 2016

TO: U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator Mark Kirk
U.S. Congressman Bob Dold
Illinois Senator Melinda Bush
Illinois Representative Sheri Jesiel

CC: Mr. James Marter
U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth
Ms. Andrea Zopp
State Sen. Napoleon Harris
Mr. Chris Aguayo
Ms. Nancy Rotering
Mr. Brad Schneider
Mr. Michael Amrozowicz
Mr. Nick Ciko

Zion, Illinois, located on Lake Michigan, was once a thriving lakeshore community. As you are aware, however, Zion's lakefront has become an interim nuclear waste storage site for Exelon. The purpose of this letter is to seek your assistance in securing Zion's portion of existing funds intentionally collected for 32 years for the purpose of mitigating negative social and economic impacts associated with closing a nuclear power plant.

Zion has been in a downward economic spiral due to a drop in collective property values of 46% and a resultant tax rate increase of 143% since the plant closed. The escalating tax rate continues to prevent Zion from attracting new commercial interests, has contributed to many residents experiencing foreclosure or selling their homes at a loss, and led to a dramatic drop in property values. Additionally, the closed plant's deteriorating infrastructure and interim nuclear waste storage site create an inability to redevelop Zion's greatest asset, its lakefront, and prevents the mitigation of the negative effects of homeowners' increased tax burden. Zion is quickly becoming a blighted community.

The Federal Government foresaw the potential impact on local communities facing this scenario and adopted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The Act required customers pay a nuclear waste storage fee and established a formula for distributing these fees to those communities hosting an interim nuclear storage site. Under the 1982 formula, Zion would be entitled to impact assistance of \$15 million annually. Zion has never received any of these set-aside funds to date but has clearly suffered the impact the Federal Government anticipated.

We call upon you to aggressively pursue the original intent of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and propose legislation that would provide a means by which Zion could access existing set-aside funds for their intended use and to address the needs of our community. Please contact Zion

Mayor Al Hill at 847/746-4012 for additional information and/or to discuss the action you will take to assist your constituency. Thank you for your consideration.

Representing thousands of Zion-Benton area residents and actively seeking constituent support for this request are the following:

City of Zion, Mayor Al Hill

Zion Township, Cheri Neal, Supervisor

Zion Park District, Bill Hartman, President

Zion-Benton Public Library, Matthew St. Cyr, President

Zion-Benton Twp. H.S. District 126, Loren Karner, Board President

Zion Elementary District 6, Craig Bennett, Board President

Zion Minority Caucus, Pamela Jeffries, Economic Dev. Chair

Cancer Treatment Centers of America - Midwestern Regional Medical Center, Scott Jones, President

Lake County Board, Aaron Lawlor, President

City of Waukegan, Wayne Motley, Mayor

Village of Beach Park, John Hucker, Mayor

Benton Township, Jan Suthard, Supervisor

Village of Wadsworth, Glenn Rybeck, Mayor

Newport Township, Randy Whitmore, Supervisor

Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce, LeNette Van Haverbeke, President

Buy Local – Zion Benton, Chris Szymanski

Coalition for Healthy Communities, Joel Brumlik, President

American Legion Post 865, Tom Ley, President

Beach Park Elementary District 3, Andy Luther, Board President

Beach Park Educators, Mark & Susan Kinsman, Co-Presidents

Winthrop Harbor Elementary District 1, Rick Lambert, Board President

Winthrop Harbor Council, Patricia Wallace and Carrie Trimmer, Co-Presidents

Zion Education Association, Leatrice Williams, President

Zion-Benton Federation of Teachers, Kelly Regnier, President

American Assoc. of University Women, Nann Blaine Hilyard, Branch President

Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, David Wickster, Executive Director

Illinois Beach Sunrise Rotary, Shantal Taylor, President

Zion Exchange Club, Angel Jackson, President

Zion Ministerial Association, Mike McDowell

GFWC Zion Woman's Club, Marilyn Goodman, President

Zion-Benton Kiwanis Club, David O'Rear, President

Zion-Benton Moose Lodge 667, David McCleary, Administrator

Lake County Federation of Teachers, Mike McGue, President

International Association of Firefighters Local 1999, Rich Reich, President