

PRESS RELEASE

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MAJOR IRONY: REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR ("I'M A BUSINESS MAN!") RAUNER BAILS OUT A CLINTON Ignoring opposition of major Illinois businesses, strikes subsidy deal with Exelon

CHICAGO-- In a surprising but not entirely unexpected move, Governor Bruce Rauner has struck a last-minute deal with Exelon Corporation in support of Exelon's nuclear bailout legislation. With the Governor's position now clear, the legislation can now move before the Legislature for approval or rejection before the end of veto session on Thursday, December 1st.

Endorsing Exelon's nuclear subsidies bails out "Clinton" – the nuclear power station in central Illinois that Exelon has threatened to close because it is unprofitable.

"When we heard candidate Rauner running for governor touting himself as "a business man," we had no idea he meant '**business as usual**' man," observed Dave Kraft, director of Nuclear Energy Information Service. "He's demonstrated he is part of 'the Springfield way' with this deal."

Details of the deal are scant at this time. However, Rauner's move has set the stage for the Legislature to approve a 10-year, un-reviewable nuclear rate hike worth by some estimates to be as much as \$2.35 billion. It has been pointed out that legislators will now be asked to vote on an huge electric rate increase, without a state budget, and when a state tax hike is expected.

"If one were to amortize the \$2.35 billion electric rate hike bailout over the 1,500 direct and 4,200 indirect jobs Exelon claims would be lost if it closes Clinton and Quad Cities nuclear stations, Governor Rauner and Exelon are asking the ratepayers in Illinois to pay between \$560,000 to \$1.57 million per job "saved." We could buy these workers out cheaper, close the reactors, and stop the production of 900 tons of high-level radioactive wastes over the next 10 years," Kraft points out.

In endorsing the subsidization of three money-losing, privately owned nuclear reactors, Rauner ignored the compelling testimony of several large industrial and commercial power users which normally are Exelon allies, but who oppose the bailout. At Tuesday's House Energy Committee hearing, representatives of BOMA, the Illinois Manufacturers Association, the Chemical Industry Council, and the Illinois Petroleum Council testified that passing the bailout would be a "net jobs killer" for Illinois industry, and "turns the [electric] deregulation process on its head."

They pointed out the phenomenal success of the electric utility deregulation effort of the late-1990s, noting that the stakeholder study team that crafted the legislation which has saved ratepayers of all classes multiple billions of dollars took over six months to get it right. They pointed out that Exelon – and now the Governor – has given the Legislature only three days to examine a 480+-page bill, the result of which will be to undo one of the most successful pieces of ratepayer friendly legislation ever passed.

In conclusion they pointed out that whatever the Legislature did, the rates would go up. But, they preferred no bailout since at least free-market mechanisms would still be in place to institute corrections in pricing over time. The bailout is a legislated rate-hike, with no other recourse for the next 10 years. They maintain this will have a negative impact on businesses.

"Seems like the "Business Governor" is as good as his contemporaries in the opposition party at giving the people and businesses of Illinois 'the business'," notes, Kraft.

The Legislature has only one day remaining to pass or reject the Rauner-endorsed bailout before veto session ends.

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