

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH HR 1146 (some general counter points)

- Implementing these resolutions amounts to **massive subsidization** of aging, uneconomic nuclear reactors in Illinois, while trying to argue for “free market solutions” simultaneously. HR 1146 grossly slants the table in favor of these uneconomic reactors.
- Many of the very “problems” HR 1146 purports to address and solve could be solved by **FIXING THE RPS** and aggressively growing renewable energy and efficiency in Illinois the way the law requires, a solution that Speaker Madigan has apparently rejected for this session.
- An energy source that creates deadly wastes that humanity has to monitor and keep out of the environment for 6,000+ generations **is NOT a “clean” energy source**. Exelon’s reactors have generated more than 9,000 tons of this long-lived high-level radioactive waste to date, with no place to dispose of it. A December 8, 1999 ruling by the Better Business Bureau’s National Advertising Division warns that unqualified claims by the Nuclear Energy Institute (nuclear industry trade, advertising and lobbying group) of nuclear being “clean” or “emissions free” were “difficult to substantiate,” and that “The record, however, does not support this interpretation of the claim.”
- Nuclear reactors are **NOT emissions free**, as claimed in various “Whereas” sections, in that they are permitted by NRC regulations to discharge radionuclides into the air and water, if below regulatory levels. The reactors could not function if they were not allowed to do this.
- It is highly questionable that **grid reliability** is in jeopardy should Exelon decide to close 1, 3 or even 5 reactors. ComEd closed two large reactors at Zion in 1997, and installed electrical grid voltage-stabilizing technology (synchronous condensers) to stabilize the grid back then. NRC and FERC would not permit actions that would harm the grid functioning. Finally, the Legislature approved 10-year’s worth of rate hikes for ComEd to build a “smart grid,” which to a lesser extent would decrease some of the grid issues; and if it doesn’t, then ratepayers should get refunds and that law repealed.
- The **four reports** called for by HR 1146 are all ordered to reach a pre-determined conclusion (“we need to keep nuclear plants open for XYZ reasons...”), BEFORE the subject matter is even investigated – a serious design flaw to any study known as “pre-judging the outcome,” resulting in the results and conclusions being invalid and unacceptable.
- **No** mention is made for a **public participation** process to challenge the assumptions and conclusions of such reports/studies.
- HR 1146 does not indicate **who will PAY for all of the staff time and research done by four State agencies**, who will essentially be working for free as Exelon Corporation. Why should a private entity have the ability to “bill” taxpayers for “reports” that, by definition are not going to be valid anyway? (see point above)
- Many of the “Whereas” **points** are simply are **illogical, incorrect, misleading, or exaggerations**, leading to falsely derived “be it resolved” statements and conclusions. Most are contestable with claims from equally credible experts or sources maintaining an opposite view; some are simply wrong. The “coulds” that are often stated are often incomplete, or contestable in an opposite or alternate way.