



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

August 16, 2023

To the Honorable Members of  
The Illinois House,  
103rd General Assembly:

Today, I return House Bill 3445, an energy omnibus bill, with specific recommendations for change.

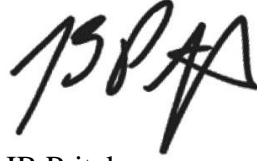
House Bill 3445 is an omnibus energy bill that makes changes to the Adjustable Block Grant program to make it more available to public schools, requires IPA to conduct a study evaluating several policy proposals, amends existing law regarding siting for renewable energy projects, requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to conduct a thermal energy network workshop, and gives incumbent utility providers the right of first refusal over new transmission projects in the MISO region.

My administration appreciates the hard work of the sponsors of this legislation in the House and Senate. House Bill 3445 contains many useful provisions to advance energy policy in Illinois. However, the right of first refusal language inserted by Senate Amendment 4 will raise costs for rate payers by giving incumbent utility providers in the MISO region a monopoly over new transmission lines. Eliminating competition will cause rates to increase in the MISO region, where there is currently over \$3.6 billion in planned transmission construction in the Ameren service territory. Without competition, Ameren ratepayers will pay for these transmission projects at a much higher cost. Competitively bidding transmission construction, instead of giving the utility a monopoly, has been shown to lower costs significantly. My administration is committed to working with stakeholders and our partners in the General Assembly to enact meaningful energy policy, however, I cannot support legislation that puts corporate profits over consumers.

Therefore, pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return House Bill 3445, entitled, "An Act Concerning State Government," with the following specific recommendations for change: On Page 217, line 7, delete "and Article XXIII" and delete the entirety of the language added beginning on page 220, line 18 and continuing through page 224, line 17.

With the above changes, House Bill 3445 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB Pritzker', written in a cursive style.

JB Pritzker  
Governor, State of Illinois