Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy
Chicago City Council
September 18, 2024

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, rising energy costs are hurting working families and businesses across Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the climate emergency and lack of investment in clean energy, infrastructure, and transportation leads to poor air and water quality and other public health concerns, especially for Black and Brown communities on Chicago's South and West Sides; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act in 2021, committing Illinois to transitioning to using 100% clean energy by 2050 and creating good-paying jobs across the state; and

WHEREAS, geothermal energy refers to heat energy from the Earth, which can be used to generate electricity, heating, and cooling; and

WHEREAS, geothermal energy is clean and renewable, with life cycle emissions four times lower than solar photovoltaic cells and six to 20 times lower than natural gas, according to the U.S. Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, establishing geothermal energy networks in Chicago could lead to greater carbon-neutral energy usage, lower energy costs, more good-paying union jobs, and cleaner air and water for residents across the City; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, hereby urge the Illinois General Assembly to enact legislation establishing pilot geothermal energy projects to explore the long-term and wide-scale use of geothermal energy generation, supply, distribution, and rate structures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be sent to House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, and Governor JB Pritzker.

Matthew J. Martin
Alderman, 47th Ward