

INDUSTRY LEADERS of Southwestern Illinois

**Before the COVID-19 pandemic** limited in-state travel, I happened to be in Chicago on business when the subject of electric vehicles (EV) surfaced in a meeting. One of the gentlemen in the meeting spoke about how he had stopped at a local Walgreens that morning to charge his electric vehicle.

I laughed and initially thought he was joking, but he was serious. He said Walgreens, as well as Whole Foods, are among the businesses that offer publicly accessible vehicle charging. When I shared that there are only a handful of charging stations where I live in the Metro East area, and I wasn't even sure where all of them were, he thought I was joking.

Would you believe that there are approximately 60 publicly accessible charging stations in the entire Ameren Illinois Downstate service territory? That's 43,700 square miles of rural and urban landscape and 1,200 communities. And just 60 places to get your electric vehicle charged. I was astonished when I saw that figure.

The conversation in Chicago was an eye opener. It not only crystallized the vast differences between Chicagoland and Downstate markets, but it also steeled my conviction to move forward with our Downstate Clean Energy Affordability Act.

We introduced this legislative package to not only address the disparity in electric vehicle charging options but to also ensure that Downstate Illinois customers would have a voice in the development of Clean Energy Policy.

Our plan is focused on helping the State of Illinois achieve its goal of 100 percent clean energy by the year 2050. We'll jump start the EV market by expanding the network of electric charging stations, provide consumer rebates for purchase of electric vehicles and the installation of in-home charging. We'll invest in local renewable energy development, transportation electrification, and battery storage. We'll spur economic growth by targeting renewable energy projects in rural and underserved communities in the Ameren Illinois service territory.

Some have wondered whether passage of our bill would put Ameren Illinois in the energy generation business and whether that is allowed under the law. It is important to remember that deregulation is about giving customers a choice in their energy supply and our proposal does not change that, in fact it gives another choice. Customer choice will remain while supply and delivery will remain separate. The renewable energy produced by Ameren Illinois facilities will be transmitted to the wholesale energy market and put downward pressure on the price of wholesale energy that Retail Electric Suppliers and the Illinois Power Agency draw from to deliver to our customers.


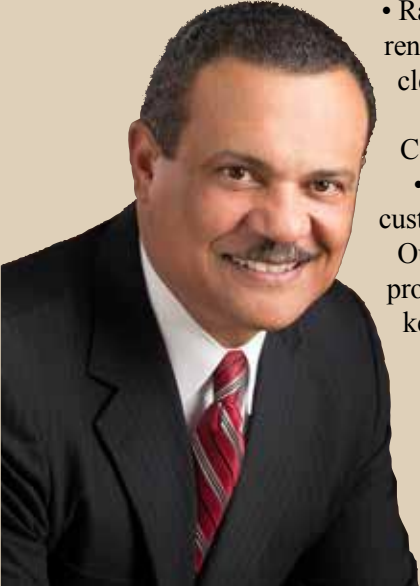
What makes our proposal unique is that it is focused exclusively on our service territory. Here are the key elements of the plan:

- Enables Ameren Illinois to construct and operate local solar and battery storage facilities.
- Raises the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for downstate utilities to 32.5 percent by 2030 and makes state procurements of renewables for downstate customers more efficient and cost effective – a key to reaching the state's 100 percent clean energy goal.
- Continues fair and transparent performance-based ratemaking subject to annual Illinois Commerce Commission review.
- Ensures renewable investments deliver the intended results with the most benefits and the least cost to customers.


Our plan will place new solar and battery facilities along our existing electric distribution infrastructure. By spreading the projects across a diverse downstate geographic footprint – and in proximity to our own power poles and power lines – we can keep electricity costs affordable, enhance reliability, and help the state close the gap in its renewable goals. It will also provide an economic development boost to downstate communities, several of which have been impacted by the recent or planned closure of coal production plants.


I hope you will join us in advocating for a plan that is focused on Downstate. Please contact your district legislators and tell them to support the Downstate Clean Energy Affordability Act.

**Richard Mark, Chairman and President  
Ameren Illinois**



# CLEANER ENERGY FOR DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS

-  New solar and battery storage facilities
-  More electric vehicle charging options
-  Environmental and economic development benefits for Downstate customers



Tell your state legislator you support the Downstate Clean Energy Affordability Act.

**Because Downstate Deserves the Benefits of Clean Energy**

