



Illinois Public Health Association

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IPHA Statement on Governor Signing Clean Energy Bill Into Law

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Tom Hughes, Executive Director of the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), released the following statement on Wednesday:

“As an association representing local health departments across the entire state of Illinois, we serve on the frontlines of defending the public’s health and safety. It is our responsibility to not only protect people and communities from current threats to their health, but also to speak out about threats to future generations. Climate change and its effects are undoubtedly a public health crisis, one that our organization has been vocal about, which will continue to escalate with devastating consequences on the safety and livelihoods of people and communities. We stand in strong support of the clean energy legislation signed into law today by Gov. Pritzker, and urge other states and regions to enact similar guidelines that will help curb the effects of climate change in our world.

“The science is clear that climate change, when combined with other human-made and natural factors, represents a serious impact on the health of people across the globe. We already see extreme temperatures, wildfires, and massive flooding, but many amplified factors from climate change also include air pollution, food insecurity, and the spread of diseases. All of these are some of the most serious threats caused by climate change that will ultimately affect the health, safety, and livelihoods of those across the world. It is clear that action must be taken before it is too late.

“As we saw throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, widespread threats to the world’s health have devastating impacts and the ability to bring even the most developed countries to their knees. Members of our association have been on the frontlines since the start of the pandemic and know that threats like these must be taken seriously. We strongly support the legislation signed into law today and applaud the governor, legislators and advocacy groups involved for taking this strong step to stop climate change. It is our hope that by enacting cleaner energy policies like these, we will be able to stop the devastating effects climate change will ultimately have on the health and safety of people in Illinois but also across the world.”

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