

POWER CHOICE ILLINOIS



BACKGROUND:

The Illinois General Assembly recently took bold action to address climate change by passing historic legislation that puts the state on a path to 100% clean energy by 2050. This legislation helps transition the state's generation fleet toward a reliable, renewable, affordable, and clean energy future. However, an additional step is still needed to help empower consumers to make efficient, timely, and financially beneficial decisions about their electricity usage.

THE CHALLENGE:

Illinois consumers **paid billions of dollars** to install and deploy smart meters and have a resilient grid. The smart meters measure and record electricity usage in 15- or 30-minute intervals, but outdated regulations restrict **how and where the data can be accessed**.

As a result, this **usage data is not easily accessible to customers** or companies that can help **organize, analyze, and inform** consumers about their electricity usage habits.

Data is the lifeblood of the clean energy economy. The current lack of data access limits innovation and competition and prevents the introduction of electricity plans that **encourage responsible electricity usage** and **help lower energy costs to customers**.



THE SOLUTION: Pass **SB 3903** (*Sen. Cunningham/Rep. Evans*) to free customers' electricity interval usage data by modernizing data access regulations. To further protect consumers, the bill creates additional oversight and accountability measures for the retail industry. The proposal contains data protection measures to ensure that licensed parties responsibly use and protect consumer data. Providing customers, and the state's licensed energy companies serving consumers, with **improved access to the interval usage data will encourage innovation, competition, and promote the responsible use of electricity by consumers.**

PASSING THE FREE YOUR DATA ACT WILL:



Empower Customers: Customers deserve improved access to their usage data to help them make smarter decisions regarding how and when they consume electricity. It's consumers' data, help them use it to make informed decisions about how they use electricity.



Encourage Innovation Through Analytics and Real-Time Monitoring: Unlocked usage data can provide customers with analytics, real-time monitoring, and the benefits of competitive electricity plans that offer lower rates at different times of the day. Data access can help detect abnormal usage and help save customers money!



Help Customers Responsibly Manage Energy Consumption: The data belongs to customers, but access to it has been hampered by outdated regulations. As a result, consumers don't have access to software, tools, and services that can help educate them about usage habits. Data access will help companies provide dashboards, tools, apps, and analysis that promote the responsible use of electricity.



Create Value For Customers: If retail energy providers had access to usage data, consumers would be able to utilize time-of-use plans or select from tailored plans that meet their needs and help them save money. Consumers deserve access to tailored plans that use usage data to offer time-of-use billing, encourage the utilization of renewable energy, and support the adoption of electric vehicles.



Support Illinois' Historic Pivot To Green Energy: While Illinois transitions its generation fleet to renewable and carbon-free energy, it is important that consumers gain access to valuable energy management tools and data to make responsible choices that can save families money.



SUPPORT THE FREE YOUR DATA ACT:

Data is the lifeblood of the renewable energy economy and Illinois needs to modernize access to smart meter data. Illinois consumers paid billions for the smart meters – let's put the data to use for them.

Support **SB 3903 (Sen. Cunningham / Rep. Evans)** and help **Free Your Data** from the current outdated and cumbersome process in place and strengthen consumer protections.

Allow Illinois' licensed competitive retail energy companies access to consumers' electricity usage data to identify emerging customer needs, develop usage-based energy plans that help consumers save money, and support the state's transition to green energy.