

# Illinois Republicans attack new federal emission goals

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Democrats talk of clean energy

By Bernard Schoenburg  
Political Writer 6-3



Davis



Callis



Durbin



Oberweis



Schock



Miller

Some Illinois Republicans attacked proposed new federal limits on carbon pollution Monday, saying the rules would stall the economy.

Some Democrats said that the environmental goals should be paired with other clean-energy projects.

Under the plan, which calls for meeting goals by 2030, Illinois is to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants to 1,271 pounds per megawatt hour, or 33 percent less than the state's emissions in 2012.

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Taylorville, whose 13th Congressional District includes part of Springfield, said in a statement that the announcement "continues the administration's war on coal and will result in fewer jobs right here ... and higher energy costs for all Illinois families.

"Creating an all-of-the-above approach energy policy shouldn't include removing a low cost, reliable energy source like coal from the equation, because the same approach is being tried in countries like Germany and the results have been disastrous," Davis added. "This decision is short-sighted and another step down an extremely dangerous path for America's energy future and independence."

Democrat Ann Callis of Edwardsville, who is running against Davis in the 13th in the November election,

said, "I plan on reviewing the proposal carefully," but added that she has a set of principles.

"First," Callis said, "climate change is a real issue and we need to confront it, not stick our head in the sand and deny that man-made actions impacted climate change like Rodney Davis has done." She also said any proposals she would support "must keep the pocketbooks of Illinois families in mind so we are not raising costs. Finally, we should be expanding clean energy solutions here in Illinois, including renewable sources and low-carbon energy technology, which will not only combat climate change but also create jobs in our community."

Davis, asked about climate change last month while in Springfield, responded that, "I've always said climate change is real. It's a debate on whether or not it's caused by humans or whether it's (a) natural occurrence. ... My main issue ... is how do we ensure that we, as a country ... don't limit our economic capabilities and our economic advantages when you have competitors throughout the globe that don't care nearly as much about emissions as we do." He added that America has "substantially" reduced emissions over 20 years.

"We are doing our part in America and we can't hinder our opportunities to grow

American jobs," Davis said. "So let's make sure if we're going to talk about climate change, it's got to have a global focus."

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., issued a news release that said the proposed rule would help reduce not only greenhouse gas emissions, but smog and soot air pollution. The statement said that for every dollar invested through the proposed rule, American families will see up to \$7 in health benefits and reduced health costs.

"Communities across Illinois are already leading the nation in choosing power that is renewable, affordable and clean," Durbin said in the statement. "I will continue to support these efforts and other investments in innovative technologies, such as FutureGen 2.0, that creates Illinois jobs now."

The FutureGen project would capture carbon dioxide from a coal-fired plant at Meredosia and store it underground near Jacksonville.

Durbin's GOP opponent in the fall is state Sen. Jim Oberweis of Sugar Grove.

"These proposed rules will be another staggering blow to jobs, growth and prosperity," Oberweis said in a statement, adding that it would disproportionately harm poor and middle-class people. "We need energy policies that will open markets, not stifle them, so we can lower heating and

fuel costs for American consumers. These rules do the opposite."

U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Peoria, whose 18th Congressional District also includes part of Springfield, said in a statement that coal mines and power plants provide "thousands of good-paying jobs to Illinois families."

"Today's announced rule by the EPA means more lost jobs for Illinois and rising energy prices," Schock said.

"I have already worked to ensure that the public has an opportunity to weigh in on this rule, and I anticipate both Congress and the courts will have much more to say on this issue," Schock said. "For now, the message is clear: the Obama administration has declared war on the president's home state."

Darrel Miller of rural Danvers is the Democrat running against Schock in the fall. He said he disagrees with the Obama administration's action, saying Congress should address the emissions issue. He does support mandating "modest reductions" in carbon dioxide emissions.

"It's something that representatives ought to debate and vote on and be held accountable for," Miller said.

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