



May 26, 2023

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
401 S. Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62704

The Honorable Emanuel Chris Welch
Speaker
Illinois House of Representatives
10055 Roosevelt Road, Suite E
Westchester, IL 60154

Re: In Opposition to HB 3445 SA 4 Utility Right of First Refusal (ROFR) Bill

Dear Governor Pritzker and Speaker Welch:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), the North American trade association for the glass food and beverage manufacturing companies, glass recycling companies and other suppliers to the industry, we are reaching out to express our concern and opposition to HB 3445 and SA 4.

These bills would prevent new transmission lines from being competitively bid. Without competition, there would be no incentive for Ameren and Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) to reduce the cost of building transmission lines. As industrial purchasers of large quantities of electricity, these higher costs will be largely borne by glass and other manufacturing facilities.

Illinois rate payers have some of the highest electric rates in the country now and are bracing for recently approved ComEd electric rates increases to take effect. Future electricity rate increases will have a negative impact on our members' glass container manufacturing plants in **Dolton (Ardagh Glass)** and **Streator (O-I Glass)**, and the several hundred workers they collectively employ in benefits-provided careers.

States that have competitively bid electricity transmission projects can experience cost reductions of 30 percent or more. Without competition, Ameren and ComEd will likely increase electric rates, at the expense of residents and in-state businesses alike.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott DeFife". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott DeFife
President