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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taylorville Energy Center will Bolster Central Illinois Economy by Providing Environmentally-friendly, Good-paying Jobs

The Governor's signing of SB 1987 today is a welcomed step forward towards the construction of our state's first clean-coal powered plant and the creation of more than 1,500 jobs.

The legislation itself promotes renewable energy and clean coal technology in a way that protects the environment and consumers, as well as stimulates the economy by creating jobs.

The Taylorville Energy Center would be the first clean-coal plant built under this new legislation. The plant will be among the most environmentally-friendly coal plants in the world, able to dramatically reduce harmful gas emissions by removing most mercury and sulfur, allowing for the use of Illinois coal with high-sulfur content. It is estimated that the plant will use as much as 1.5 million tons of Illinois coal annually and generate enough electricity to power 630,000 area homes.

"The enactment of this legislation is a belated Christmas present for Central and Southern Illinois," said Mike Whalen, business manager for Iron Workers Local 46 in Springfield and vice president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. "The Taylorville Energy Center will be an economic godsend for workers all across this region. Construction jobs, coal mining jobs, engineering jobs...plus all of the new jobs that will come about indirectly from this plant. In this tough economic climate we desperately need job creation and these are 'green' jobs ... that are the wave of the future."

The Illinois AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions have long advocated and lobbied for the Taylorville Energy Center. In 2006, area building trade unions signed a Project Labor Agreement with the plant's developers in Springfield.

"We are appreciative to the Governor for signing this critical piece of legislation that will move Illinois forward into a future of clean fuel generation," said Michael T. Carrigan, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO. "We want to also thank Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Sen. Donne Trotter, Sen. Deanna Demuzio and Rep. Gary Hannig for their hard work and leadership on this issue. Hopefully, the Taylorville Energy Center will be a precursor to the re-establishment of the FutureGen plant in Mattoon and many other environmentally responsible power facilities in our state."