

Winnetka Future Energy Coalition

February 26, 2025

Dear President Rintz and Village Trustees,

Subject: Additional Study Session to Hear from Power Providers: Alternate IMEA Options

We are writing to request that you not sign the contract with IMEA by the April 30 deadline that they imposed, so that the council and the wider Winnetka community will have sufficient time to consider alternate providers.

The study session with IMEA on February 11 reinforced the public view that some critical components necessary to reach the best decision for the village and the residents are missing. We need to hear first-hand from other energy providers; there is an important chance that those alternates will provide a superior, cleaner or lower cost offer compared to IMEA.

A decision as consequential as whether to bind the village's energy supply to IMEA until 2055 requires hearing directly—not second hand—from established energy providers about what they can or cannot do, compared to what IMEA is currently offering. Making such a comparison is prudent based on what is at stake here.

Reputable companies such as Constellation, Avangrid, American PowerNet, NRG or NextEra Energy would, we understand, be glad to discuss with you about how they may provide Winnetka with electric power and do so in a way that;

- Does not tie the village to reliance on IMEA's coal plants for the next 30 years
- Does not affect reliability of service
- Allows the village to continue providing reliable electric distribution service through the Winnetka Water & Electric Department
- Provides financial flexibility with a higher probability of lower overall costs

We would be glad to connect you with people at a selection of such organizations.

Assembling the right providers for a study session and performing assessments will take some time. It is questionable that this could be completed before IMEA's April 30 deadline for renewal.

Naperville, the largest member of IMEA by far, has already indicated that it will not meet the April 30 deadline. Winnetka should follow Naperville's lead and indicate that we will need time to decide whether to renew. There's nothing about the April 30 deadline to renew 10 years early that should be treated as mandatory. As you know, this is a once-in-a-generation decision for our village and such a deadline should not impede council's ability to do its job in making a measured and thoughtful comparison of all the options, including other energy providers.

Your effort to compare other providers will benefit significantly from taking advantage of the work already done by Naperville and St Charles, as they have assembled similar studies to compare alternative providers. We would be very happy to assist with connecting you to the information that Naperville and St. Charles have in hand.

Finally, having prepared this letter, we saw today's Chicago Tribune editorial: "Energy futures for Winnetka, Naperville and St. Charles held hostage by arbitrary deadline." Since you may

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read it for yourselves, there's no need for us to comment on it — other than to say it too defines a good decision as one that doesn't rush to meet the April 30 deadline.

Respectfully yours,

WFEC - Winnetka Future Energy Coalition

Laith Amin, Tom Barron, Teri Cross, Patrick Hanley, Roger Hochschild, Liz Kunkle, King Poor, Katie Scullion, Derek van der Vorst, Marcus Wedner, Craig Witty, Bob Zabors