GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROOM 300
STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

December 13, 2006

Dear Reporter:

As you know, Illinois electric consumers face substantially higher bills next year should the General Assembly and governor fail to take action to prevent power rate increases that begin January 1 from remaining in effect.

During the second week of the fall veto session, the Senate passed House Bill 2197, legislation which has been portrayed as a compromise to soften the blow of the rate increases. House Democratic staff analysis reveals that nothing could be further from the truth.

Attached to this letter, please find both a short memo and a more detailed one which explain the various provisions of the bill and demonstrate why it is not in the best interests of the state's electric consumers for it to become law.

For the sake of Illinois' working families, senior citizens and small businesses, who should be entitled to purchase power at reasonable rates and who do not have the option to secure their electricity from alternative suppliers operating in a genuinely competitive environment, we must do better than House Bill 2197.

When the Legislature reconvenes for the final three days of the 94th General Assembly, on Sunday, January 7, it is my intention that the House will continue on a course that protects consumers and allows the electric monopolies serving Illinois to earn *fair* profits. I believe this to be critical for Illinois citizens' financial wellbeing and for the state's continued economic vitality.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Madigan

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
Speaker of the House