



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Climate Committee

From: CMAP Intergovernmental Affairs Staff

Date: April 30, 2026

Subject: Legislative update

Action Requested: Information

FEDERAL

Surface transportation reauthorization

Draft surface transportation reauthorization language is expected to be released by the House in the coming weeks. CMAP staff have been in conversation with members of the region's congressional delegation, who believe that topline funding will likely land in the \$550-600 billion range (equal to \$110-120 billion annually over the five-year horizon the bill will cover). For context, the surface transportation reauthorization component of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) had a topline of roughly \$475 billion but supplemental advance appropriations added roughly an additional \$300 billion.

As IIJA funds are set to expire on September 30, it is increasingly likely Congress will pursue a continuing resolution. A continuing resolution does not enable the extension of advance appropriations. If transportation funding is provided through a CR, then the increased resources available under IIJA via advance appropriations will no longer be available. CMAP staff are continuing to engage with our congressional delegation to elevate the importance of sustaining IIJA topline funding levels to meet the region's infrastructure needs.

STATE

Northeastern Illinois Water Governance report

In partnership with advocacy organizations, Representative Katz Muhl filed [HB4689](#), directing CMAP to develop a report of legislative recommendations to address the sufficiency, management, and governance of water resources in northeastern Illinois. Following the introduction of House Amendment 1, which reflects feedback from CMAP and stakeholders, HB4689 passed out of the House chamber. The bill is now being sponsored by Sen. Bill Cunningham in the Senate. At the time of this writing, bill proponents are pausing advancement of the legislation pending conversations with the Governor's Office.

CMAP staff will continue to monitor this measure and will engage with the bill sponsors, advocates, and stakeholders should legislative activity resume.

The POWER Act

In response to the proliferation of new data centers throughout the state, Leader Robyn Gabel and Sen. Ram Villivalam, in partnership with the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, introduced the POWER Act ([HB5513/SB4016](#)) this legislation session. This legislation establishes comprehensive environmental, water, and energy regulations for hyperscale data centers by requiring them to assume energy costs, report water usage, and conduct environmental assessments for community impacts.

Both House and Senate committees held subject matter hearings on data centers, during which municipalities, labor unions, environmental advocates, and other stakeholders testified about the competing interests surrounding new data center development. Local officials emphasized the potential economic benefits and new revenue streams these facilities could bring, while residents and environmental groups raised concerns about increased utility costs, noise, and the broader impacts on local energy and water systems, as well as on communities living near the proposed sites.

HB5081 did not advance past the House committee deadline and was re-referred back to Rules Committee. SB4016 was given a committee/3rd Reading deadline extension until May 15, 2026, and at the time of this writing is assigned to the Senate AI and Social Media Committee.

General legislative activity

The General Assembly's 2026 regular session is currently underway and scheduled through May 31, 2026. May 8 is the next key legislative deadline for Senate and House bills to advance out of committee in the opposite chamber, followed by May 22, the deadline for those bills to be placed on 3rd Reading.

CMAP staff tracks legislation before the General Assembly that impacts the region and is relevant to the agency's work. The following has been identified by CMAP staff as key pieces of legislation being considered before the Illinois General Assembly that may be of interest to the CMAP Climate Committee.

It should be noted this is not an exhaustive list of legislation tracked by CMAP staff. For more information on other tracked legislation of interest, please contact Ryan Gougis, IGA Specialist at rgougis@cmapp.illinois.gov.

Climate Mitigation & Resiliency

[HB4838/SB2965](#) – RENEWABLE FUELS PROGRAM (Rep. Johnson/Sen. Halpin)

Description: Establishes the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program, administered by the Department of Agriculture. Allows grants to be awarded from the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Fund, which is created as a special fund in the State treasury, for the installation of equipment for the storage and dispensing of fuels with higher blends of ethanol or biodiesel feedstock, according to the application and eligibility requirements established by rule by the Department of Agriculture. Requires the Comptroller and Treasurer to transfer, from June 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, \$3,000,000 each calendar quarter from the Underground Storage Tank Fund to the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Fund. Provides for eligibility for grant funding and eligible expenditures from the fund.

Status: HB4838 assigned to House Energy & Environment on 3/12/2026; SB2965 assigned to Senate Approps. – Public Safety & Infrastructure on 2/3/2026; committee/3rd reading deadline established as 5/15/2026

[SB41 SA1](#) – CLEAN TRANSPORTATION STANDARD (Sen. Koehler)

Description: SA1 creates the Clean Transportation Standard Act. Establishes a clean transportation standard to reduce life cycle carbon intensity of fuels for the ground transportation sector by specified

amounts. Provides for related rulemaking and calculations. Provides that the clean transportation standard shall take the form of a credit marketplace monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency. Provides for verification and data privacy requirements for the Agency. Provides for penalties for failing to offset deficits in certain situations, and for penalties for submitting false information. Exempts airline, rail, ocean-going, and military fuel. Provides that the Agency must develop a periodic fuel supply forecast. Establishes findings. Defines terms. Contains other provisions. Effective January 1, 2027.

Status: Assignment to Senate Energy and Public Utilities on 3/12/2026; committee/3rd reading deadline established as 5/15/2026

SB3307 – IDOT-SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (Sen. Halpin)

Description: Requires the Department of Transportation, in consultation and collaboration with the Department of Central Management Services and the Capital Development Board, to develop one or more standards for State purchases of appliances, concrete, asphalt, steel, and other building materials, subject to appropriation or the award of grant funding for this purpose. Provides that in developing these standards, the establishment of a maximum acceptable Global Warming Potential standard, as well as ways to promote and facilitate the use of life cycle assessments and environmental product declarations, shall be considered when considering bids for State-funded infrastructure projects.

Status: Assignment to Senate Procurement on 2/18/2026; committee/3rd reading deadline established as 5/15/2026

SB3633 – SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION (Sen. Faraci)

Description: Provides that the (b) The Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency shall conduct a joint study and publish the findings of such study to evaluate the extent to which carbon could be stored through widespread adoption of practices promoting soil carbon sequestration in the State, and what soil management practices that can be utilized to promote soil carbon sequestration. Provides that the joint study shall consider how changes in seasonality and weather patterns, driven by climate change, may impact the efficacy of soil carbon sequestration. Provides that the joint study shall be published on a publicly available website no later than January 1, 2028, and suitable copies shall be delivered to the Governor and members of the General Assembly.

Status: Assignment to Senate Appropriations on 2/17/2026; committee/3rd reading deadline established as 5/15/2026

SB3772 – EPA-ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (Sen. Villanueva)

Description: Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Makes findings about the imposition of disproportionate and adverse effects on communities in areas of environmental justice concern. Defines terms. Applies to the following permits for which an owner or operator applies on or after January 1, 2026: (1) a construction permit for a new source that is to be located in an area of environmental justice concern and that is required to obtain from the Agency a CAAPP permit or a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit; (2) a construction permit for any existing source that is located in an area of environmental justice concern, that possesses a CAAPP permit or a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit issued by the Agency, and that seeks an increase in annual permitted emissions; or (3) a construction permit for any existing source that is located in an area of environmental justice concern, that seeks an increase in annual permitted emissions, and that will for the first time require a new CAAPP permit or a Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit issued by the Agency. Requires the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the application for affects on environmental justice and may suggest additional testing or changes in the application. Requires that the Agency to conduct an evaluation of the prospective owner's or operator's prior experience in owning and operating sources of air pollution before it may issue a construction permit. Makes other changes. Creates the Office of Environmental Justice within the Environmental Protection Agency. Effective immediately.

Status: Arrived in House on 4/29/2026

Data Centers

HB5513/SB4016 – HYPERSCALE DATA CENTERS (Rep. Gabel/Sen. Villivalam)

Description: Amends the Environmental Protection Act, Energy Efficient Building Act, Illinois Power Agency Act, Public Utilities Act, and related statutes to establish comprehensive environmental, water, and energy regulations for hyperscale data centers. In the Environmental Protection Act, requires cumulative impact assessments, public notice, and community benefits agreements for data centers; prohibits nondisclosure agreements; and creates the Data Center Community Intervenor Compensation Fund and Hyperscale Data Center Public Benefits and Affordability Fund funded by annual fees based on peak demand. Mandates water resource planning, quarterly water usage reporting, water scarcity plans, and Water Impact Permits with public hearings and renewal every 5 years. Requires compliance with stringent energy codes and annual energy and water reporting to the Illinois Commerce Commission. Expands renewable energy procurement programs, establishes a hyperscale data center self-direct program, and strengthens equity, transparency, and labor standards in clean energy initiatives. Creates the Residential Automated Solar Permitting Platform Act to require municipalities and counties to adopt a residential automated solar permitting platform on or before July 1, 2027, and authorizes persons to file a civil action against a municipality or county in violation.

Status: Re-referred to Rules Committee on 3/27/2026; SB4016 assigned to Senate AI and Media and committee/3rd reading deadline established as 5/15/2026

Water Resources Management

HB4418 – EPA-STORMWATER-PLASTIC PELLET (Rep. Mason)

Description: Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Provides that one year after the effective date of the amendatory Act, the Agency shall develop and begin implementation of requirements for a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan or other similar best management practice requirements, to be included in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued to facilities regulated under certain federal regulations. Provides that these requirements apply to the control of plastic pellets or other preproduction plastic materials, in stormwater runoff from these facilities.

Status: Arrived in Senate on 4/16/2026

HB4689 – NE IL WATER GOVERNANCE REPORT (Rep. Katz Muhl)

Description: HA1 provides that the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), in consultation with the Northeastern Illinois Water Governance Advisory Committee (rather than in consultation with the Northeastern Illinois Water Governance Advisory Committee and the Metropolitan Planning Organization) shall develop and submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a regional planning-level assessment of the sufficiency, management, and governance of water resources and drinking water systems in Illinois (rather than a report of legislative recommendations) within 24 months of funds being appropriated to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (rather than by May 31, 2027). Provides that, to facilitate the development of the assessment, relevant State agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Water Survey, shall provide relevant data sets, documentation, and information to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning as soon as practicable, subject to applicable confidentiality requirements. Provides that the Northeastern Illinois Water Governance Advisory Committee shall be dissolved on the day after the report is submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly (rather than July 1, 2027). Provides that the provisions added by the amendatory Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2030. Makes other changes. Provides for the repeal of these provisions on December 31, 2030.

Status: Arrived in Senate on 4/15/2026

SB3681 – PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES ACT (Sen. Simmons)

Description: Creates the Protect the Great Lakes Act. Provides that, at the start of each month, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago shall test for the presence of microplastics and PFAS in Lake Michigan and the Environmental Protection Agency shall test for the presence of microplastics and PFAS in the Illinois drinking water system. Provides that, at the end of each month, the District shall submit a report to the Environmental Protection Agency containing the test results taken at the start of the month. Provides that, after one year of testing and reporting, the District and Environmental Protection Agency shall submit a report to the General Assembly. Provides that the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Public Health shall establish an intergovernmental working group.

Status: Assigned to Senate Approps. – Public Safety & Infrastructure on 2/17/2026; committee/3rd reading deadline established as 5/15/2026