



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GEDC Commends Four Area Legislators for Bi-Partisan Effort to Advance Region's Economic Fortunes**

**-Bill Signed Last Week by Gov. Rauner Strengthens Grundy County's Economic Future  
by Attracting Development -**

**(Grundy County, IL, July 7, 2016)** – The Grundy Economic Development Council (GEDC) today commended area legislators Sen. Sue Rezin, Sen. Toi Hutchinson, Rep. Kate Cloonen, and former Rep. John Anthony for a successful bi-partisan effort this legislative session to extend an important economic development tool that will help facilitate continued economic development and job growth in Grundy County. The GEDC expressed their appreciation to Gov. Rauner for his support of the legislation and commend him for signing this important piece of legislation into law on June 30, 2016 (HB694).

With unanimous approval in both houses, the legislation extends the life of the Grundy County Economic Development Project Area #1 (EDPA). The Grundy County EDPA was initially established to attract new development and economic growth in the County. The special development district is set to expire in 2021. The twelve-year extension of the EDPA will help facilitate economic growth in the county by supporting new development, which in turn will create new employment opportunities.

GEDC has been working with businesses to attract new development and job growth, including the Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) Three Rivers Energy Center, a new state-of-the-art and highly efficient 1,100 MW (megawatt) combined-cycle power generation project in an unincorporated portion of Grundy County (Goose Lake Township). The energy facility located 50 miles southwest of Chicago, represents a \$1 billion private investment in Illinois infrastructure, which will bring more than 500 union jobs during the 30-month construction phase, 25 well-paying jobs to operate the facility, and another 75 indirect jobs to support the operation of the facility. The project is expected to grow the state economy by hundreds of millions of dollars, with a vast majority of that growth focused in and around Grundy County.

“State Senators Rezin and Hutchinson and Representatives Cloonen and Anthony are all to be highly commended for their non-partisan leadership on getting this legislation passed that is so crucial to Grundy County economic development,” said Nancy Norton Ammer, GEDC’s CEO. “Thanks in great part to the statesman-like efforts of these four officials, this legislation will help attract new projects, investment, and create benefits for local residents for years to come.”



“Additionally, GEDC would like to thank the Grundy County Building and Construction Trades and the Illinois AFL-CIO for their support in passing this legislation and we look forward to their involvement throughout the construction of this project,” continued Norton Ammer.

The CPV Three Rivers Energy Center was announced publicly in January and has since garnered strong and widespread support. The major infrastructure investment brought about by this project is also a boon to regional labor and business.

“This legislation will facilitate continued economic growth for the region and proves once again, our region is looked to for its leadership and expertise in energy,” said State Sen. Sue Rezin (R-Morris). “Reliable power is critical to a healthy economy and this project ensures we will have ample reliable power to move our economy forward. In addition, this project is great news for our labor workforce as it will provide hundreds of highly-skilled construction jobs. These labor jobs are the backbone of this major project.”

“The Three Rivers Energy Center will provide quality union construction jobs and will benefit small businesses and middle-class families throughout our area,” sponsor State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-40th) said. “At a cost of more than \$1 billion, this is a major construction project that will re-energize our local economy and ensure reliable energy for Illinois residents.”

“The potential the CPV Three Rivers has for Grundy County is immense, particularly among the hard working union labor in our region,” said Rep. Kate Cloonen (D-79<sup>th</sup> District). “I’m pleased to have helped pass legislation that will help facilitate construction of a new clean energy facility and I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for advancing what’s important to the people of Illinois.”

“In addition to all of the new jobs, this project will provide a regional economic boost,” said former State Rep. John Anthony (R-75<sup>th</sup> District). “This, while improving the electric grid’s reliability and providing our families with clean energy.”

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#### *About GEDC*

*Serving Grundy County since 1994, the Grundy Economic Development Council (GEDC) is a not-for-profit organization that fosters partnerships between business, labor, community and education sectors. Working with these local entities, the GEDC strives to produce a strong and successful business environment in Grundy County. When investors, site selectors, and industry leaders are looking to locate or expand their business, the GEDC serves as the primary resource for information, including available property listings, incentives and demographics.*