



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**10:45 AM**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**Issued on: 4/8/2026**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Collaborative Room 2, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony are encouraged to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting and shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

**26-1153**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 3/11/2026

[26-0977](#)

**Sponsored by:** BRIDGET DEGNEN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BILL LOWRY, KEVIN B. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, BRIDGET GAINER, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**URGING PASSAGE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE SUPERFUND ACT (SB 2981/HB 4773)**

**WHEREAS**, climate change represents the biggest threat to humanity and is demonstrated by an increasing heat index, extreme weather patterns, reduction in biodiversity, wildfires, increasing air pollution, rising sea levels, carbonization of the ocean, floods, droughts, coastline erosion, decreased crop production, and other alarming environmental changes; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2025 was one of the three warmest years on record, and the past eleven years represent the eleven warmest on record, with ocean heating continuing; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change will make basic human necessities like food, housing, health care, transportation, and energy more expensive and difficult to obtain, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is experiencing direct and devastating consequences from increased heat and severe weather events, including but not limited to flooding and tornadoes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump administration moved to rescind the landmark “endangerment finding,” a 2009 scientific conclusion by the EPA that found six greenhouse gases endanger public health, and required the EPA to regulate emissions to protect public health; and

**WHEREAS**, in announcing the proposed rescission of the “endangerment finding,” Donald Trump called the move, “the single largest deregulatory action in American history,” and

**WHEREAS**, the New York Times recently noted, the “United States will essentially have no laws on the books that enforce how efficient America’s passenger cars and trucks should be,” despite transportation representing the largest single source of greenhouse gases in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, federal inaction and rollbacks, including withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and rescission of critical EPA findings and rules, have amplified the need for state-level leadership on climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the more we delay in implementing solutions to reduce emissions and control the effects of climate change, the more it will cost in the long run; and

**WHEREAS**, fossil fuel companies have known for decades that burning fossil fuels causes climate change but have actively concealed this information, spread disinformation, obstructed climate action, and prioritized profit over public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2024 joint investigation by Rep. Jamie Raskin and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, entitled *“Denial, Disinformation, and Doublespeak: Big Oil’s Evolving Efforts to Avoid Accountability for Climate Change,”* revealed fossil fuel companies ran multi-decade campaigns to mislead the public, and block regulatory and legislative action; and

**WHEREAS**, despite federal retreats, Cook County remains committed to mitigating climate change, ensuring sustainability, fostering innovation and economic development, and investing in career training in green industries; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is actively working to meet its Clean Energy Plan goals, including a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, 100% renewable electricity for County buildings by 2030, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, environmental justice is a key component of Cook County’s Department of Environment and Sustainability mission, and is central to the County Policy Roadmap and Sustainable Communities plan, advancing equity by addressing historic disinvestment and disproportionate pollution burdens; and

**WHEREAS**, empirical data shows approximately one-third of Americans, or about 130 million people, routinely breathe unhealthy air, with racial and ethnic minorities disproportionately exposed to fine particulate pollution, contributing to shortened life expectancy and negative health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, historical redlining and discriminatory housing policies have contributed to environmental inequities, including higher exposure to air and water pollution, urban heat islands, and reduced green space in Black and Brown communities across Cook County and Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, states across the country are increasingly advancing climate change superfund legislation, requiring fossil fuel companies to contribute financially to mitigation costs; and

**WHEREAS**, New York and Vermont enacted climate change superfund laws in 2024 and Rhode Island, Maine, Washington, D.C. are considering similar measures; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025 alone, climate and weather-related disasters in the United States caused an estimated \$115 billion in damages, contributing to over \$3.1 trillion in cumulative damages since 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, rising climate disaster costs have led to higher home insurance premiums, increased utility bills, and additional public health and infrastructure costs for states and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, polling data demonstrates broad public support, with seventy-one percent (71%) of voters favoring measures requiring oil and gas companies to pay their share of climate-related damages; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Climate Change Superfund Act (SB 2981/ HB 4773) will create a State managed fund financed by payments from entities deemed responsible for climate change, to support climate resilient infrastructure and mitigation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, qualifying projects include, but are not limited to, building resilient infrastructure, creating climate-resilient housing, implementing green infrastructure to counter urban heat, relocation assistance for residents displaced by extreme weather or long-term environmental changes, upgrading water management systems, and improving agricultural facilities to withstand extreme weather; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will determine liability, set payment amounts, and direct spending, with at least 40% of funds allocated to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this fund will represent fossil fuel companies fair, proactive, equitable payments to cover the growing costs of climate change; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners expresses its support for the Climate Change Superfund Act (SB 2981/ HB 4773) sponsored by Senator Graciela Guzmán and Representative Robyn Gabel, and urges the Illinois General Assembly to pass this legislation during the 104th General Assembly session; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges Governor JB Pritzker to sign the Climate Superfund Act into law upon passage by the General Assembly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, and the Cook County delegation to the Illinois General Assembly to affirm Cook County's support for responsible climate accountability and environmental justice legislation.

**Legislative History :** 3/12/26 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[26-0978](#)

**Sponsored by:** BRIDGET DEGNEN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BILL LOWRY, KEVIN B. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, BRIDGET GAINER, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**URGING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REJECT LEGAL IMMUNITY FOR BIG OIL AND FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES**

**WHEREAS**, Chicago, Illinois, and communities across the country are taking Big Oil companies to court for lying to the public about their products harming the planet; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence from internal documents, independent investigations and scientific studies confirm the fossil fuel industry understood the link between burning fossil fuels and climate change from at least the 1960's; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2024 joint investigation by Rep. Jamie Raskin and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, entitled "*Denial, Disinformation, and Doublespeak: Big Oil's Evolving Efforts to Avoid Accountability for Climate Change*," revealed fossil fuel companies worked for decades to undermine public understanding, explicitly deny basic science principles underlying climate change, and then developed a campaign of deception and disinformation; and

**WHERE AS**, the fossil fuel industry is lobbying Congress to issue a federal legal liability waiver that will stop local governments from holding them accountable; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Petroleum Institute, the largest oil and gas trade association in the country and a defendant in Chicago's climate accountability lawsuit, has publicly announced that stopping "state climate lawsuits" against fossil fuel companies is a top priority for the industry; and

**WHEREAS**, if the fossil fuel industry persuades Congress to pass legislation granting it sweeping immunity from climate litigation, it will deny states, cities, and communities access to the court system seeking redress for climate-related harms; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman (R-WY) recently announced she is working with House and Senate colleagues to craft federal legislation aimed at "tackling" climate accountability lawsuits and climate superfund bills; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Hageman's comments follow a letter last year from a group of Republican attorneys

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general urging the creation of a federal "liability shield" similar to the one Congress granted gunmakers in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, federal climate protection rollbacks, including the recent withdrawal of the Environmental Protection Agency's 2009 "endangerment finding," (stating greenhouse gases endanger public health) have underscored the need for state and local leadership to protect our residents and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the mounting threat of climate change is felt firsthand in Illinois, as heat waves, worsening floods, severe storms, and extreme weather events devastate communities throughout the State, overburdening neighbors and local governments with skyrocketing costs to recover, respond, and adapt to an escalating crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025 alone, climate and weather-related disasters in the United States caused an estimated \$115 billion in damages, contributing to more than \$3 trillion in cumulative losses since 1980, with rising disaster costs causing higher home insurance premiums, increased utility bills, and mounting public infrastructure expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, fossil fuel companies have known for decades that burning fossil fuels posed catastrophic risks to the global climate, yet chose to mislead the public, protect their profits, and delay the transition to cleaner energy; and

**WHEREAS**, nine Democratic-led states have already sued fossil fuel companies over climate change, along with dozens of municipalities around the country, and the Trump administration pre-emptively sued Hawaii and Michigan to try to stop them from suing oil companies; and

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, Michigan filed suit against oil and gas companies claiming they conspired to sabotage the renewable energy transition, while contributing to a climate crisis. Michigan's lawsuit claims anticompetitive conduct against BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, and their chief lobby group, the American Petroleum Institute (API) alleging a conspiracy to delay the energy transition, in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act and Clayton Antitrust Act and the Michigan Antitrust Reform Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 8, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order titled "Protecting American Energy from State Overreach," attacking state and local laws seeking damages from fossil fuel companies, and ordering the Attorney General of the United States to inhibit them; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2026, a federal judge rejected the Trump administration's motions, allowing Michigan to continue the lawsuit against oil and gas companies for the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, states across the country are increasingly advancing climate change superfund legislation, requiring fossil fuel companies to contribute financially to mitigation costs; and

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**WHEREAS**, New York and Vermont enacted climate change superfund laws in 2024 and Rhode Island, Maine, Washington, D.C. are considering similar measures; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois lawmakers are also considering climate superfund legislation. The Climate Change Superfund Act (SB 2981 / HB 4773) creates the superfund, financed by payments from entities deemed responsible for climate change, to support climate resilient infrastructure and mitigation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, empirical data demonstrates approximately one-third of Americans breathe unhealthy air, with racial and ethnic minorities disproportionately exposed to fine particulate pollution, contributing to shortened life expectancy and adverse health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, historical redlining and discriminatory housing policies have contributed to environmental inequities, including higher exposure to air and water pollution, urban heat islands, and reduced green space in Black and Brown communities across Cook County and Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, under the proposed Climate Superfund Act, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency would determine liability, set payment amounts, and direct spending, with at least 40% of funds allocated to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities; and

**WHEREAS**, granting fossil fuel companies immunity from climate-related claims would preempt and nullify state and local authority, interfere with consumer protection laws, and deny communities their ability to seek justice in court; and

**WHEREAS**, granting fossil fuel companies blanket immunity will shift the potential financial burden of climate damages from corporate polluters to governments and taxpayers; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this body urges members of the United States Congress to reject all legislation granting fossil fuel companies immunity from climate-related lawsuits or shield them from legal and legislative accountability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this body opposes federal efforts to preempt, nullify, or interfere with state and local authority to enforce consumer protection laws, pursue climate accountability litigation, or enact climate superfund legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the Illinois Congressional delegation, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Majority and Minority Leaders.

**Legislative History :** 3/12/26 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[26-0979](#)

**Sponsored by:** BRIDGET DEGNEN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BILL LOWRY, KEVIN B. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, BRIDGET GAINER, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, TARA S. STAMPS and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE PASSAGE OF SB1531 (THE DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINER ACT)**

**WHEREAS**, polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as “Styrofoam” is used in disposable food service containers and widely used for take-out foods, beverages, and leftover meals. Studies on polystyrene foam suggest it may never truly biodegrade, instead breaking down into smaller chemical microplastics. It is difficult to recycle, takes more than 500 years to break down in a landfill, and contributes to environmental contamination and cleanup costs generally borne by local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, styrene is a chemical used in the production of polystyrene and has been identified as a probable human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP); studies have shown harmful chemicals in plastics can leach into our bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, use of polystyrene foam food service containers contributes to microplastics in the environment, polystyrene microplastics contaminate the food contained in the disposal container, and through the lifecycle of microplastics in landfills, non-biodegradable pollutants are ingested and inhaled by humans, animals and marine creatures; and

**WHEREAS**, after ingesting polystyrene particles, due to their small size, they may be transported to other organs via the bloodstream and lymphatic system accumulating in organs like the brain, liver, lungs, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, styrene is linked to at least vision and hearing loss, poor memory and concentration, cancer, nervous system damage; and

**WHEREAS**, there are better alternatives for disposable food containers and reducing the use of polystyrene foam serves an important public health and environmental benefit by limiting human exposure to microplastics in food, water, and the broader ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 22 million pounds of plastic enters the Great Lakes each year. Too much of plastic pollution is from single-use items like foam cups, takeout containers and other food ware; and

**WHEREAS**, the Disposable Food Service Container Act (SB1531) would prohibit the sale or distribution in Illinois of disposable food service containers composed in whole or in part of polystyrene foam beginning January 1, 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a growing movement away from polystyrene from large commercial chains and restaurants, towards recyclable alternatives that don't pose the health and environmental risks as polystyrene; and

**WHEREAS**, at least 12 states and two U.S. territories have enacted statewide bans targeting expanded polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam) for food containers and the European Union enacted a ban in 2021 on many single-use plastics items including expanded polystyrene food containers; and

**WHEREAS**, SB1531 includes an enforcement section which states a violator shall first be provided with a written warning notice, a second violation shall be a civil penalty of up to \$500; and a third violation shall be a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 within a 12-month period; and

**WHEREAS**, SB1531 passed the Illinois Senate on April 30, 2025, demonstrating legislative momentum and growing statewide consensus on the need to address polystyrene foam pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, SB1531 has garnered broad support from nearly 50 environmental, consumer rights, and community organizations, including, but not limited to: The Sierra Club, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Shedd Aquarium, Illinois Environmental Council, Environmental Law and Policy Center, Friends of the Chicago River, Reduce Waste Chicago, Cleanup Club Chicago, Citizen Action Illinois, Chicago Environmentalists, the League of Women Voters, Environment Illinois and the Coalition for Plastic Reduction; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County residents, like communities across Illinois, experience the environmental and public health consequences of polystyrene foam pollution, making it both fiscally responsible and environmentally imperative to support legislation that reduces these harms; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners expresses its strong support for the Disposable Food Service Container Act (SB1531), sponsored by Senator Laura Fine and Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, and urges the Illinois House of Representatives to pass this legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners urges Governor JB Pritzker to sign SB1531 into law upon passage by the General Assembly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor

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of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, and the Cook County delegation to the Illinois General Assembly to affirm Cook County's support for this environmentally responsible and public-health-driven legislation.

**Legislative History :** 3/12/26 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

[26-0974](#)

**Sponsored by:** SEAN M. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE STATE OF ILLINOIS TO OPT-IN TO THE FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the State of Illinois became one of only a small number of states without any school choice program after discontinuing its private school choice initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, student academic outcomes in Illinois demonstrate a pressing need for additional educational supports and services, with only 41 percent of students in grades three through eight reading at grade level and just 28 percent meeting grade-level proficiency in mathematics; and

**WHEREAS**, by eleventh grade, fewer than one in three Illinois students achieve proficiency in reading or mathematics, highlighting continued educational challenges as students approach graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Choice for Children Act established a Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program that allows private individuals and organizations to donate to scholarship-granting organizations in exchange for federal tax credits of up to \$1,700 annually, with donated funds used to support educational services for eligible students; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program is voluntary for states, and students are only eligible to receive scholarships if their state elects to opt into the program; and

**WHEREAS**, donors may receive federal tax credits regardless of whether Illinois participates in the program; however, unless Illinois opts in, scholarship funds donated by Illinois residents will benefit students in other participating states rather than Illinois students; and

**WHEREAS**, if Illinois elects to participate, scholarship funds may be used by students in both public and private schools for a wide range of educational services, including tutoring, supplemental instruction, instructional materials and online coursework, educational therapies for students with disabilities, standardized testing and college admission exam fees, and dual-enrollment course fees; and

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**WHEREAS**, participation in the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program does not divert or reduce state or federal public education funding, as the scholarships are funded entirely through private donations supported by a federal tax credit representing foregone federal revenue rather than state expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cost to the State of Illinois to participate in this program; and

**WHEREAS**, bipartisan support continues to grow across the nation with both Democrat and Republican governors choosing to opt-in to the program to strengthen educational opportunities for their state's children; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza has endorsed Illinois' participation in the Education Freedom Tax Credit Program by stating, "Either Illinois students will see hundreds of millions of dollars in new resources supporting education or they will watch from the sidelines as that money flows to Washington and other states. The correct choice is clear. But Illinois is at risk of fumbling this opportunity. And hurting our school communities as a result."; and

**WHEREAS**, recent polling indicates overwhelming support by Illinois residents with only 22% of respondents opposed to our state opting in to the program; and

**WHEREAS**, by the end of February 2026, 27 states have opted-in to the program including: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board urges the Governor of the State of Illinois and the Illinois General Assembly to formally opt the State of Illinois into the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program so that Illinois students and families may directly benefit from privately funded educational scholarships; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the Governor, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, and the members of the Illinois General Assembly for their consideration.

**Legislative History :** 3/12/26 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmenta

*Lynne M. Turner*

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Secretary

Chair: Britton  
Vice-Chair: Degnen  
Members: Committee of the Whole