

# News...

*...from the Illinois House of Representatives*

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## **Statement by Rep. Bob Flider: Feds Deliver 'Sucker Punch' to Central Illinois**

*Flider pledges to work with state, federal officials to reverse decision*

**DECATUR, IL** –State Rep. Bob Flider (D-Mount Zion) today announced his vehement frustration with the Department of Energy's decision to disband FutureGen. Late Tuesday, it was announced that the DOE had planned to disband the FutureGen Alliance and change its plans relating to clean coal technology and the placement of FutureGen in Mattoon.

"The Bush Administration's and the DOE's actions are akin to a cruel hoax on residents of central Illinois, the clean coal industry and the supporters of FutureGen," Flider said. "It is difficult to imagine a more cruel sucker-punch than the one just thrown by this Administration and the DOE."

Flider added: "For several weeks, the U.S. Department of Energy was at a loss to explain why they were modifying the original plans for FutureGen. It is now apparent that the decision to pull the plug on the FutureGen project came once President Bush's insiders learned they could not deliver on maneuvering the project to Texas.

"I pledge to work with Senators Durbin and Obama and Congressman Johnson and our local elected officials to do all I can to turn this around. Too many people have invested their time, talent and dollars to make FutureGen a reality. I don't want their hard work to be all for naught."

In December, the FutureGen Industrial Alliance, a global coalition of energy and mining companies, officially named Mattoon as the site of the project. The selection came after more than three years of intense efforts by state lawmakers and members of Illinois' congressional delegation.

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