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News Contact- Southern Illinois Power Cooperative W. Scott Ramsey (CEO)
Diane Karnes-Manager of Human Resources (618) 964-1448

MARION – Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) hosted the American Energy Alliance (AEA) Bus Tour on Monday, October 22, 2012.

The AEA is a not-for-profit organization that engages in grassroots public policy advocacy and debate concerning energy and environmental policies. AEA believes that freely-functioning energy markets provide the most efficient and effective solutions to today's global energy and environmental challenges – and they believe that government policies should be predictable, simple and technology neutral.

The American Products and Power bus is a traveling promotion which is the grassroots movement of the American Energy Alliance.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative employees were given the opportunity to sign the bus as it crosses the country to show support of energy production, manufacturing jobs and economic growth. Employees were also given the opportunity to sign a Petition to show their support. When the bus rolls back into D.C., the AEA will deliver these signatures to Congress to demonstrate that real American's offer their support.

President and General Manager of SIPC said, "We were very pleased the AEA Power Bus was able to stop here at the Lake of Egypt and give our employees a chance to make their voice heard to our leaders in Washington. We clearly need all forms of energy and predictable but balanced regulation to operate our resources for a strong economy, America needs reasonably priced electricity to make this happen. Coal must be part of the mix".

America is blessed with an abundance of natural resources that give us an unrivaled ability to power our country. Coal forms the backbone of American energy and provides consumers with a safe, reliable, and affordable source of electricity. In Illinois, coal provides 47% of the electricity generated.



SIPC employees line up to sign the American Energy Alliance Power-Bus at the Marion power plant. The Power Bus is touring America giving power plant workers, coal miners, industrial workers, and concerned Americans a chance to show their support for coal, oil, and natural gas. The bus will complete its tour in Washington, DC before the election.