

Mayor Daley
City Hall, Chicago

Dear Mayor Daley,

I know you care for the environment. I think you should build a line of water wheels in Lake Michigan that spin when waves wash over them, attached to a generator that produces electricity. With wave energy you could save money, participate in finding a new way to produce electrical energy, help the environment, and protect Chicago's beaches.

Sometimes it's very expensive to produce electrical energy. But with wave energy I think you could produce a lot of energy for a cheap price. Hydroelectric power is one of the cheapest energy sources.

Most people do not know about wave energy, because it's a new idea. But I did not come up with the idea entirely myself. I think wave energy is important because we need newer and greener ways to produce electricity, because only 23 percent of US energy is produced without using natural resources. There are not many wave generators in the world, and Chicago could be one of the first cities to use wave energy.

Wave energy is almost 100 percent efficient. This is helpful to the environment because it produces more electrical energy than wind turbines and solar panels. Plus Chicago is so close to the lake, there would be almost no line loss.

Wave energy could also help protect Chicago's beaches and harbors. When the waves crash against the shore, they are destructive to the parks, buildings and beaches located near the water. The turbines that are used in wave energy generators act like breakwaters. When the waves hit the wheel of the turbine, they slow down and do not hit the harbor and kill plants and animals.

I think wave energy should be used in Chicago for four reasons. One reason is that it is cheap, another reason is that it could be a new and better way to generate power, a third reason is that there would be less line loss along the way, and the last reason is that it would protect Chicago's beaches. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

Grade 3, Lincoln Elementary School