



September 2, 2016

The Honorable Gary W. Manier  
City of Washington  
301 Walnut Street  
Washington, IL 61571

Dear Mayor Manier:

I am pleased to inform you that Ameren Illinois has named the City of Washington one of our Progressive Cities for 2016.

Your community earned this distinction because of its success in implementing forward-looking initiatives to better the quality of life for your residents and businesses. Some of those projects include:

- Your very active Park District and community initiatives, such as, the BARK District, Veteran's Memorial Scholarship Fund, Living Tree Memorial, "Have A Seat" Park Bench Donation Program and more.
- The unique programs sponsored by the Washington Police Department, like Vacation House Checks, Stuffed Animal Program, Walk and Talk Detail, and others.
- Your recreational trail system featuring 11 miles of paved trails and your continued efforts to extend and connect them.
- Your community's participation in gas and electric safety municipal training.
- The Washington Community Garden that grows food for eight food pantries in the tri-county area.
- The provision of residential curbside recycling and the 50/50 sidewalk replacement program
- The completion of 95 residential and business energy efficiency projects between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016, generating more than \$90,000 in annual energy savings.
- The Washington Square, a renovation of historic buildings into a thriving shopping district.

Representatives from Ameren Illinois will honor your city with a \$2,500 grant to be used toward a community project that will improve services or enhance the quality of life for your residents and businesses. We will also present you with road signs announcing your designation as a Progressive City. Your Ameren representative, Kenny Blum, will contact you soon to work out details of an award presentation and the project selection. In the meantime, you may contact Kenny at 309.677.5447 or [KBlum@ameren.com](mailto:KBlum@ameren.com) if you have questions.

Congratulations on this accomplishment. The City of Washington has set a great example for other Illinois communities to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daetta Jones".

Daetta Jones  
Ameren Illinois Division I