

HB 44 -- Renewable Energy Standard

SPONSOR: Korman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Utilities by a vote of 15 to 7.

This bill allows hydropower produced in any quantity to be used to satisfy the renewable energy standard of Section 393.1030, RSMo. Hydropower generated from pumped storage will remain ineligible to be counted as renewable energy for the purposes of the standard.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will place all sources of renewable energy on a level playing field so that market competition can help determine which ones are the most economically efficient. Voters did not intend to treat hydropower separately from other types of renewable energy as solar and wind power when they enacted energy mandates. The bill will not inhibit the development of solar and wind power for most utilities. Customers will benefit from lower prices if AmerenUE is allowed to count clean energy projects as the Bagnall Dam facility as a renewable energy project.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Korman; and Missouri Energy Development Association.

OPPONENTS: Opponents say that the bill undermines the will of the voters in passing Proposition C in 2008 and that this legislation was intended to apply to "new" sources of renewable energy and thereby generate new economic development and create new jobs. The bill could potentially result in less solar energy development and cost hundreds of middle class jobs. Missouri is suitable for wind farms and solar energy projects and allowing AmerenUE to count the Bagnall Dam facility will discourage them from undertaking these types of renewable energy projects.

Testifying in opposition to the bill were John Hickey, Missouri Sierra Club; P. J. Wilson, Renew Missouri; Ed Smith, Missouri Coalition for the Environment; Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association; Environment Missouri; Bradley Harmon; and Francis Babb.