

REDUCE CONSUMER ENERGY BILLS

Support HB04-1313, the Romanoff Energy Bill.

Current Public Utilities Commission integrated resource planning rules will cost Colorado consumers hundreds of millions of dollars in excess electricity bills.

The Romanoff Energy Bill would:

- Direct the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish that the goal of resource planning in Colorado is to minimize the total energy bills paid by consumers and businesses.
- Expand utility energy conservation programs, thereby saving Colorado's consumers hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 10-15 years.

Until 2002, the PUC required utilities to minimize consumers' energy bills in their resource plans. In 2002, the PUC modified its rules to minimize consumer energy *rates* rather than *bills*. This change will hurt Colorado's consumers because it will make it much more difficult to justify utility energy efficiency programs. These programs help consumers and businesses lower their energy use, but do not necessarily result in lower rates.

Consumers pay energy bills, not energy rates. The goal of energy planning as well as utility operations should be to minimize bills, not rates.

Utility energy efficiency programs work. Xcel Energy operates strong energy efficiency programs that are saving its customers in Minnesota hundreds of millions of dollars. But Xcel is phasing out its energy efficiency programs here in Colorado, in part because of the flawed PUC focus on rates rather than bills.

Ruling out efficiency programs reduces competition and costs consumers money. Efficiency programs could save Colorado's consumers hundreds of millions of dollars if they were allowed to compete fairly with new power plants. Efficiency programs have proven their effectiveness, saving consumers over \$3 for every \$1 invested in efficiency measures.

Other states recognize that electric utilities should strive to minimize the total bills paid by their customers. The goal of resource planning in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, for example, is to minimize overall energy bills.

*Save Colorado's consumers money.
Let energy efficiency programs fairly compete.
Please support HB 1313, the Romanoff Energy Bill.*

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