

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 83

Introduced by Natural Resources Committee Langemeier, 23,
Chairperson; Carlson, 38; Cook, 13; Dubas, 34;
Fischer, 43; Haar, 21; McCoy, 39; Schilz, 47; Giese,
17; Gloor, 35; Hansen, 42; Pirsch, 4.

PURPOSE: To study issues relating to expanded development of wind energy in Nebraska, while preserving the ability of the state's unique public power system to continue serving the state with low-cost, reliable electricity. The study may use as a guide the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's report that focuses on the impact on renewable energy in Nebraska. This study shall, as a starting point of reference, based on U.S. Department of Energy findings, assume that a total of 7,800 megawatts of wind power would be consumed in or exported from Nebraska by 2030.

A task force comprised of individuals from the electric utility and wind energy industries will be convened by the committee to provide technical expertise and advice relevant to the study. An advisory group of all interested parties shall also be convened by the committee to review, advise, and make recommendations to the committee. The committee shall conduct a study that includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:

1. The roles the state's public power utilities and private developers play in the generation of wind energy for consumption both in Nebraska and for export.

2. The role of the Nebraska Power Review Board in approving renewable generation and transmission projects.

3. The current status of the eminent domain power of utilities and the policy changes, if any, that would be necessary for public and private wind energy development.

4. The process for planning, constructing, operating, and financing generation and transmission facilities in the state and region and changes that may be required.

5. The land use, including leases and contracts on public and private lands, and environmental impacts of developing wind energy, including transmission needs.

6. The financial benefits and risks that will affect Nebraskans due to the expansion of wind energy for consumption and export and how the benefits could be maximized while at the same time minimizing the risks to ratepayers and taxpayers.

7. The content and status of the legislative bills related to renewable energy and public power that were introduced in the One Hundred First Legislature, First Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall, on or before December 1, 2009, make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.