One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB824

Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 27, 2016

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 824 is a multi-faceted approach for increasing opportunities to attract private renewable energy development to Nebraska by streamlining and updating current regulations as proposed in the 2014 Brattle Group study. A reduction in property taxes, growth in high-paying rural jobs and infrastructure investment are just a few of the benefits that will be realized by **LB 824**.

Specifically, **LB 824** would accomplish the following:

- Remove current anti-competitive statutes covering the Nebraska Power Review Board process for private renewable energy development, which are not applicable in states neighboring Nebraska and are a costly barrier for companies seeking to do business in this state;
- Maintain the notification and registration of all renewable energy development projects by the Nebraska Power Review Board and would not remove the requirement to comply with the superfluous 52 existing governmental permits from 15 separate federal agencies;
- Would not impact any existing local control by counties or oversight processes or mechanisms to either approve or deny renewable energy projects;
- Nebraska's public utility rate payers would not be impacted by **LB 824**, as current statute – which would not be changed – does not allow privately developed and owned renewable electric power generation facilities to provide direct electric service to retail or wholesale end use customers. In fact, the legislation would have the potential of reducing taxes; and
- Provide a no-cost solution to increasing Nebraska's ability to compete for and attract private renewable energy development projects by focusing on reducing barriers for entry and streamlining outdated regulations.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John McCollister