



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2541		DATE: 2/7/2024	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID MASON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-534-1030	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DAVID MASON + ASSOCIATES		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO	
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CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63110
EMAIL: kdone@davidmason.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 6:54 PM

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, My name is David Mason, and I am the president and CEO of David Mason + Associates (DMA). We are an infrastructure engineering firm offering civil, structural and electrical engineering design services to a variety of clients in more than 15 states. We are a certified Minority-Owned Business Enterprise with offices in Chicago, Philadelphia, Tampa, and our headquarters in St. Louis, my home, where I founded our business 35 years ago. Ameren Missouri has been one of our electric utility customers since 2007. In that time, DMA has been involved in many projects and built a solid resume of work in the particular areas of gas and electric distribution, reliability and generation. DMA's engagement with Ameren has enabled our company to maintain steady work for more than 130 people working from our Missouri headquarters. Reliable electricity is a necessity and critical to our way of life. From the small business owner pursuing the American Dream to the moms and dads helping their children with homework and everyone in between, access to reliable electricity is vital to our society's success. As someone who has worked alongside the utility business for more than 30 years, our country is becoming more and more electrified by the day. From the growth of electric vehicles and data centers to increased manufacturing, our country is using more electricity than it ever has before. To meet this demand and ensure Missourians have access to reliable electricity, I believe action must be taken to reform our state's energy policies. Currently, in-state utility companies have certain tools and access to a reliable regulatory process when the decision is made to shut down and retire a power plant. Unfortunately, a similar level of predictability is not extended to those same companies when they decide to build new power plants and bring those assets online. To rebalance Missouri's energy policies and ensure utility companies can build the critical generation needed to move our state forward, I urge the House Utilities Committee to support House Bill 2541. This legislation gives in-state utility companies certain regulatory assurances when they decide to build new, dispatchable energy generation. It is important to point out these assurances are not without oversight. Under the legislation, the Missouri Public Service Commission would still have the power to determine if a project is a reasonable means of meeting the state's needs and interests and to ensure the project is executed in a prudent manner. If a company meets these standards, the legislation is designed to provide a level of regulatory certainty and security for utility companies when it comes to investing hundreds of millions of dollars in new dispatchable generation in the state. Overall, this legislation is about more than just new power plants, it's about ensuring our energy needs of today and the challenges of tomorrow are met in a reliable and responsible manner. I believe this legislation gives Missouri's utility companies the tools they need to meet our state's energy needs and move our great state forward.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMES B. LOWERY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-476-0050	
REPRESENTING: AMEREN MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 9020 SOUTH BARRY ROAD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JASON KLINDT		PHONE NUMBER: 816-652-1196	
REPRESENTING: EVERGY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 418679			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64106
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KARA CORCHES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE: VP OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	
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CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: kcorches@mochamber.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 3:22 PM	
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The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry is in support. We believe this bill will help to enhance greater energy generation construction opportunities, which makes our grid more resilient and reliable. A reliable grid is important to help both retain and attract businesses to the state.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: PHILLIP JAMES		PHONE NUMBER: 636-432-8035
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WEG TRANSFORMERS USA		TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER
ADDRESS: ONE PAUWELS DRIVE		
CITY: WASHINGTON	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63090
EMAIL: pjames@weg.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 9:32 AM

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WEG Transformers USA – Online Testimony – House Bill 2541 Mr. Chairman and members of the House Utilities Committee, My name is Phillip James, and I am the general manager of WEG Transformers USA's operations in Washington, Missouri. Since 1983, our company has specialized in the manufacturing, assembly, supervision and commissioning of power and distribution transformers. While our company plays a vital role in manufacturing the critical components needed to ensure our electric grid remains stable and able to serve the citizens of our state, we wouldn't be able to do our job without access to a reliable source of power. Reliable electricity is more than just a means to do a job, it is critical to our way of life. As a manufacturing company and a large-scale energy user, House Bill 2541 is essential to guaranteeing my company, WEG Transformers USA, and countless other Missouri businesses have access to reliable electricity. Through this legislation, Missouri's utility companies will have the tools they need to build new, on-demand power generation to meet their customers' needs both today and in the future. As a businessman, certainty and security is vital to any investment I make. In order to encourage our state's investor-owned utilities to make investments in our state's energy future, the Missouri General Assembly must provide them with the tools and assurances needed to give them the confidence to move forward with building new power plants in the Show-Me State. As our country becomes more and more electrified, these power plants will do more than just turn our lights on and off — they will power our economy and propel Missouri forward. Phillip K. James General Manager WEG Transformers USA Washington, MO



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: RICH AUBUCHON		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: HUNT MIDWEST		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 112 EAST HIGH STREET		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: WARREN WOOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-864-1213	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMEREN MISSOURI		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 101 EAST MADISON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 11:46 PM
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I am Opposed to this Bill. This Legislation heavily favors Big Utility Companies and the Consumers will see Bill increases in paying for infrastructure. We The people shall prevail over the high priced Lobbyist. To view my Testimony, go to the House Website, Click on "Media" and the Committee to view the video.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLARISSE TEEPE-FRYREAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: twothewoods@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 2:49 PM
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Do not support this bill HB 2541



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HENRY ROBERTSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: henryr874@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 6:49 PM
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Bill is an attempt by electric utilities to seize more control of rate cases to the detriment of the public interest. It would allow utilities to charge for CWIP- construction work in progress - which exposes ratepayers to cost overruns and the risk of having to pay for a plant that never goes into service. Missouri utilities want to seal our state off from the regional power grid. This would be a great mistake preventing us from accessing power in the event of weather disasters.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES OWEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: james@renewmo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 2:17 PM
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February 7th, 2024 Renew Missouri Advocates, Inc. 915 East Ash St. Columbia, Missouri 65201 Re: Written Testimony to the House Utilities Committee re: HB 2541, 1804, and 1435

To Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee, Renew Missouri, a 501(c)(3) organized to promote clean energy policy, wishes to testify in opposition to the concept of Construction Work in Progress, encompassed by three bills before this Committee today. The law repeals the prohibition of investor-owned utilities from seeking rate recovery for capital projects while being built as CWIP will reverse the trend our state has seen with utility companies moving towards cheaper, cleaner, and more manageable energy sources as well as in their efforts to reduce energy production through efficiency measures. Further, we also believe any legislation that speeds up the rate increase process as HB 2541, 1804, and 1435 would – particularly during a time of concerns of inflation and shrinking household budgets – should be opposed. Missouri’s energy generation is changing for the better. Our state’s investor-owned utilities have moved more and more to cheap, abundant wind and solar production. In addition to providing power that does not need to be shipped in by train or that leaves waste that proves to be a challenge to store, these domestic wind farms have contributed to their local economies in addition to keeping residential utility rates low. Nor does it include the hundreds of millions of dollars and MW’s of power saved through the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act (MEEIA). In fifteen years, in addition to saving customers and utilities money as well as reducing stress on our grid, MEEIA has also saved approximately 1.5 power plants worth of production. These are positive developments and developments Renew Missouri does not believe would have happened if nuclear power or gas were subsidized as this bill does. Our capacity is full and, as costly and inefficient coal plants retire, these clean sources of generation are meeting Missouri’s needs. There has been much excitement and anticipation in recent years around the idea of using CWIP to construct Small Modular Nuclear Reactors. Last November, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, terminated their proposed 600 MW SMR project due to unexpected cost increases. The plant was expected to be constructed for \$4.2 billion in 2018, then \$6.1 billion in 2020, and finally it was scaled down to 462 MW and the cost ballooned to \$9.3 billion last year before ultimately being cancelled. Customers remain on the hook for those costs. This is a regressive ratemaking policy that should be rejected. Rate recovery is not a significant concern for utilities at this time. Nor is the capacity for energy. We believe the existing process is motivating utilities to seek optimal generation sources without this change to the law. Please vote against House Bill 2541, 1804, and 1435. Thank you. With respect, James Owen Executive Director, Renew Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY HARDENBROOK		PHONE NUMBER: 816-810-2066	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AARP		TITLE: ADVOCACY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 4031 PARKER AVE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63116
EMAIL: jhardenbrook@aarp.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 11:41 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN COFFMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-6779	
REPRESENTING: CONSUMERS COUNCIL OF MISSOURI		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 871 TUXEDO BOULEVARD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63119
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 5:29 PM

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HB1435 (Haley), HB1804 (Black), and HB2541 (Hurlbert) would repeal Missouri's ban on charging ratepayers for construction work in progress (CWIP), a practice where ratepayers finance the cost of new power plants during construction; a risk that should be taken by shareholders who reap the financial reward of such investments. There's literally no success story of CWIP being used for nuclear in the history of our country. These bills would overturn a decision made by Missouri voters and set up our state for the type of boondoggles experienced by monopoly utility customers in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. We don't need to let monopoly utilities add more fees to gamble with ratepayer money on an unproven technology. This bill is designed to help monopoly utilities pay for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs). The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) testified in the Missouri House Utilities Committee that SMRs will not be commercially available until the 2030s. Even that prediction should be taken lightly considering that the NEI promised a "nuclear renaissance" 15 years ago that ended with massive failures. The only "success" story is happening in Georgia, where a nuclear project is seven years behind schedule and more than \$15 billion over budget. CWIP is meant to lower interest rates for building large reactors that have a long construction schedule. SMRs are being touted as more affordable since if they are built they will be built in a factory and delivered to a site. CWIP is not needed for SMRs because 1) the purchase and installation should be quick (like buying a wind farm), and 2) SMRs are supposed to be more affordable than large reactors. Bill proponents claim CWIP is needed to build more renewable energy, but this is not true, as more renewable energy is already going online without CWIP. For example, Ameren recently purchased 700MW worth of wind farms without CWIP. Including the wind acquisition, Ameren will invest approximately \$4.5 billion on 3,100MW of wind and solar by 2030 without any regulatory changes. The utilities for which this bill is applicable did not testify in support of these bills during either committee hearing. Ameren's long-range energy plan does not prioritize new nuclear. Evergy's Sustainability Transformation Plan doesn't prioritize new nuclear. There's no real need for this bill because nuclear is not in the mix for new supply side generation for the utilities for which this bill is applicable. Monopoly utility customers should not have to turn over their hard-earned money to a publicly traded utility so it can try to build a nuclear reactor that is too risky for Wall Street bankers. Reject HB1435, HB1804, and HB2541.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-727-0600	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVENUE, SUITE 100			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 10:13 AM	

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February 5, 2024 Chairman Bob Bromley House Utilities Committee 201 West Capitol Avenue Room 401-A Jefferson City MO 65101 Dear Chairman Bromley and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Bill 1435, House Bill 1804, and House Bill 2541 would allow utilities to charge customers for new power plants before they are completed and operational. This bill would undo the long-standing ban on Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) that passed in 1976 under Proposition 1 with a 63% of the statewide vote. We have two main concerns with these three bills we wish for the members of the committee to be aware of: 1. They will shift the liability for potential nuclear energy projects to consumers rather than the company tasked with constructing and receiving the necessary permits for their operation. 2. They will incentivize the creation of new nuclear power plants in Missouri and further add to the quandary of what to do with the radioactive waste created by these plants. Due to these concerns, MCE is opposed to this bill and therefore we urge you to vote "no" on HB 1435, HB 1804, and HB 2541. There are consumer inequity concerns and climate change concerns associated with this framework facilitating the development of nuclear power plants. Other individuals are testifying today to speak to those concerns and MCE echoes them. Our testimony intends to highlight our second concern with this bill, incentivizing the creation of new nuclear power plants and the subsequent radioactive waste that comes with them. The United States currently lacks a plan for the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel rods, and it has lacked this plan since the creation of nuclear power plants many decades ago. All nuclear power plants throughout the country store radioactive fuel rods on site in concrete encasings lined with steel, and the creation of any new plants will necessitate the storage of these materials on-site at those plants. While the greatest minds in the world helped develop this energy technology and on-site storage solution, there is no guarantee these current solutions will last long enough to protect the public. Depending on the stage of decay and usage of nuclear fuel, it can remain a public health threat for 24,000 to billions of years. We cannot extrapolate the population shifts and movements of people over that long of a timeframe. Furthermore, it is well documented that human error and natural disasters at nuclear power plants have created public health consequences for surrounding communities. These have occurred in older facilities with dated technology as well as newer ones that were marketed as being secured from natural disasters. In conclusion, the health impacts seen with nuclear power plant disasters across the world, the lack of a safe long-term storage plan, and the inevitable failure of human-designed systems should make clear that Missouri should not support any industry that generates radioactive waste. In short, we are leaving the health and safety of the land we are borrowing from our children and grandchildren to chance and the promises of an industry driven by profit, not the public's well-being. As such, MCE respectfully urges you to vote "no" on HB 1435, HB 1804, and HB 2541. Sincerely,

Melissa Vatterott Policy Director Missouri Coalition for the Environment mvatterott@moenvironment.org
(314) 727-0600 ext. 111



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER POLITICAL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432010			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 11:16 AM	

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I submit this testimony on behalf of the over 11,000 Sierra Club members throughout Missouri. The Sierra Club opposes House Bill 2541. Utilities are monopolies. As such, they are subject to tighter regulation than other industries. They chafe at these restraints, and every year the electric utilities, especially, come before the legislature with plans to loosen them. The duty of protecting the public interest falls on the legislature and the Public Service Commission. This bill has three major reasons why it is not in the public interest. First, the utilities are trying to take as much control of ratemaking as possible. As always, they will tell you this is because they're encumbered by regulatory lag. Their solution is to come up with a separate proceeding to determine in advance how power plant and transmission investments will be dealt with in rates. If the Commission does not meet a hard deadline of 180 days to decide the case, the utility's requested ratemaking treatment will be deemed approved in its entirety and will be binding in all future cases in which the cost may be in issue. The utility can also combine this proceeding with a request for a certificate of convenience and necessity, or CCN. The purpose of a CCN is to show that the proposed plant is needed, feasible, and in the public interest. It makes no sense to decide the rate treatment of a plant that may not be authorized. To have the two proceedings running on parallel tracks is wasteful and attempts to raise a presumption of need and public interest for the new plant or transmission line. This proposal goes against two principles of utility law in particular. First, the PSC does not pre-approve the prudence of utility investments before a rate case. Second, the PSC does not engage in single-issue ratemaking. Predetermining the rate treatment of single power plants and transmission projects could skew the result of the future rate case, which is supposed to be a holistic evaluation of "all relevant factors" (to use the statutory term) in quantifying and justifying the utility's overall cost of service. The second reason why this bill is against the public interest is CWIP — Construction Work In Progress. Current law forbids utilities to charge ratepayers for plant construction before the new plant enters service and is "used and useful." The bill would allow CWIP for natural gas power plants and small modular nuclear reactors. At least two reasons counsel against this. First is that it insulates the utilities from cost overruns, for which ratepayers should not be liable, and encourages utilities to be lackadaisical in their oversight. Second, it could force customers to pay for a plant that is eventually canceled and never goes into service. The third reason to reject this bill is the misguided notion that the way to make our electricity supply more reliable is to seal Missouri off from the regional grid. Texas, a state which nearly is isolated from the rest of the grid, is a bad example. It has been buffeted by a series of severe winter storms in which several hundred people have died. The meaning of its experience has been debated and misrepresented. It is a myth that fossil fuel and nuclear plants are reliable while wind and solar power

and energy storage (e.g. batteries) are not. As happened in Texas, gas and nuclear plants can be shut down by frozen equipment. Closer to home, last month some of Evergy's coal piles froze; coal could not be conveyed to the boilers and the units were shut down. At such times it would be nice to draw on wind power from Kansas and Iowa. Wind, solar and batteries served well in this year's Texas storms. The General Assembly should remain suspicious of utility motives and let this bill die.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 5:29 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

HB1435 (Haley), HB1804 (Black), and HB2541 (Hurlbert) would repeal Missouri's ban on charging ratepayers for construction work in progress (CWIP), a practice where ratepayers finance the cost of new power plants during construction; a risk that should be taken by shareholders who reap the financial reward of such investments. There's literally no success story of CWIP being used for nuclear in the history of our country. These bills would overturn a decision made by Missouri voters and set up our state for the type of boondoggles experienced by monopoly utility customers in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. We don't need to let monopoly utilities add more fees to gamble with ratepayer money on an unproven technology. This bill is designed to help monopoly utilities pay for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs). The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) testified in the Missouri House Utilities Committee that SMRs will not be commercially available until the 2030s. Even that prediction should be taken lightly considering that the NEI promised a "nuclear renaissance" 15 years ago that ended with massive failures. The only "success" story is happening in Georgia, where a nuclear project is seven years behind schedule and more than \$15 billion over budget. CWIP is meant to lower interest rates for building large reactors that have a long construction schedule. SMRs are being touted as more affordable since if they are built they will be built in a factory and delivered to a site. CWIP is not needed for SMRs because 1) the purchase and installation should be quick (like buying a wind farm), and 2) SMRs are supposed to be more affordable than large reactors. Bill proponents claim CWIP is needed to build more renewable energy, but this is not true, as more renewable energy is already going online without CWIP. For example, Ameren recently purchased 700MW worth of wind farms without CWIP. Including the wind acquisition, Ameren will invest approximately \$4.5 billion on 3,100MW of wind and solar by 2030 without any regulatory changes. The utilities for which this bill is applicable did not testify in support of these bills during either committee hearing. Ameren's long-range energy plan does not prioritize new nuclear. Evergy's Sustainability Transformation Plan doesn't prioritize new nuclear. There's no real need for this bill because nuclear is not in the mix for new supply side generation for the utilities for which this bill is applicable. Monopoly utility customers should not have to turn over their hard-earned money to a publicly traded utility so it can try to build a nuclear reactor that is too risky for Wall Street bankers. Reject HB1435, HB1804, and HB2541.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2541		DATE: 2/7/2024
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TRINA RAGAIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EMPOWER MISSOURI		TITLE: LEAD POLICY STRATEGIST
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO ZIP: 65110
EMAIL: trina@empowermissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/7/2024 2:41 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Date: February 7, 2024 To: Chairman Bromley and members of the Utilities Committee From: Trina Ragain, Lead Policy Strategist, Empower Missouri Re: Opposition to HB 1435, HB 1804 and HB 2541 Empower Missouri, established in 1901, stands as the largest anti-poverty advocacy organization in our state. Central to our mission is the convening of a statewide Affordable Housing Coalition, uniting individuals and organizations committed to ensuring every Missourian has access to safe, affordable, and stable housing. On behalf of our staff, board, and coalition members, we strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 1435, HB 1804, and HB 2541, which propose raising Missouri electric rates to fund power plant construction costs. Passage of these bills would exacerbate our state's already acute housing instability and homelessness crisis. Economically vulnerable households are grappling with escalating living expenses, often forced to make the difficult choices between necessities such as food, rent, and utilities. This burden disproportionately affects the 27% of Missouri renter households classified as extremely low income (ELI), surviving on 30% or less of the area median income and teetering on the brink of homelessness. 1 Alarming, ninety-one percent of these households are already part of the workforce, elderly, disabled, students, or single caregivers, underscoring the pervasive impact of this crisis. Energy, a fundamental necessity, is a critical component of rental payments. Escalating utility costs can swiftly lead to disconnections and subsequent evictions. ELI households already face a disproportionate energy burden, allocating 6% or more of their income solely to energy costs. 2 Although many attempt to catch up during non-peak months, increased expenses will render this increasingly challenging, if not unattainable for some. Furthermore, small businesses may also struggle to maintain current on their utility bills. Despite decades of weatherization and bill-payment initiatives, low-income households continue to bear a disproportionate burden of energy costs. 3 This disparity is particularly pronounced in low income, minority and rural Missouri communities, notably Decatur, Van Buren, Putnam, Scotland, Knox, Monroe, Benton, Hickory, Wayne, and Ozark counties, where energy burdens exceed 6% for ELI households. 4 The proposed Construction-Work-In-Progress (CWIP) mechanism permits utilities to pre-charge consumers for power plant construction, often before operational viability is established. Examples from Georgia and South Carolina underscore the risks associated with this approach, with consumers shouldering billions in expenses for projects that ultimately failed to deliver electricity. 5 Missourians, particularly our most vulnerable, should not bear the burden of financing speculative power plant ventures. Missouri voters have already weighed in on this issue by overwhelmingly rejecting CWIP through a voter-led initiative in 1976. Utilities must assume responsibility for their investments rather than shifting risk onto consumers. We implore you to prioritize the well-being of struggling Missouri families by rejecting policies that escalate energy costs, inevitably leading to evictions and homelessness. We urge you to stand with them by voting NO on HB 1435, HB 1804, and HB 2541. 1 <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by->

state/missouri2 <https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/energy-affordability.pdf3>
<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/2516-1083/abb954/pdf4> <https://maps.nrel.gov/slope/data-viewer?filters=%5B%5D&layer=ej.household-energy-burden&geoid=G1901290&year=2020&res=county5> <https://apnews.com/article/nuclear-power-georgia-vogtle-reactors-8fbf41a3e04c656002a6ee8203988fad>