



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 1626</b>		DATE: <b>2/18/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Utilities</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>FRED DREILING</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-806-6335</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>CITY UTILITIES OF SPRINGFIELD; MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES</b>		TITLE: <b>LOBBYIST</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1025 W 64TH TERR</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64113</b>
EMAIL: <b>freddreilingllc@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 7:35 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JARED HANKINSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-3511</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND IDUSTRY</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 149</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RAY MCCARTY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-2246</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>3234 W TRUMAN BLVD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>rmccarty@aimo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 7:57 AM</b>	

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**Associated Industries of MO will support this exception to CWIP only if this language is added to the refund provisions, " or if the project for which construction costs have been included in the rate base is not placed in service within a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the commission."**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 11:48 PM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMES OWEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>RENEW MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65203</b>
EMAIL: <b>tyler@renewmo.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 9:45 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Renew Missouri, a 501(c)(3) organized in the state of Missouri to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency policy, wishes to testify in opposition to the legislation filed by Reps. Willard Haley and John Black in allowing utilities to charge their customers higher rates at quicker increments to build excessively expensive nuclear power generation. In addition to agreeing with all of the other witnesses that have testified against this bill today, Renew Missouri wishes to add that this legislation 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 both HB 1626 and 2122 would – particularly during a time of concerns of inflation and shrinking household budgets – should be opposed. Since 2009, the last time an attempt to short change customers to build nuclear power was seriously contemplated, the landscape of energy generation in Missouri has changed for the better. Our investor-owned utilities have focused more of their effort on solar. If you were to as a utility executive what the most cost-effective energy is, they would say solar. With battery storage plants recently approved by the Public Service Commission, solar is only going to become more dispatchable and dependable and thereby negating a common criticism. Nor does it include the hundreds of millions of dollars and MW’s of power saved through the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act (MEEIA) passed by this Legislature. In less than a decade, 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 was encouraged as this legislation did in 2009 or does now. Renew Missouri would also point out we do significant work to promote the interests of low- income customers and HB 1626 and 2122 would be particularly detrimental to these populations. Rates are already increasing on customers in IOU territories such as Ameren, Evergy, and Liberty-Empire. CWIP allows rates to go up for energy production that is not even being used and may not ever be used. This is a regressive ratemaking policy that should be rejected. Rate recovery is not a significant concern for utilities at this time. We believe the existing process is motivating utilities to seek optimal generation sources without this change to the law. Please vote against House Bills 1626 and 2122. Thank you.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KORTNIE HUDDLESTON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 11:07 PM</b>	

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I urge you to oppose HB1626. While these bills are being marketed under the attractive banner of the "Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act," they represent a dangerous and regressive shift in state energy policy that will directly harm Missourians.

At its core, this legislation forces ratepayers to become unwilling investors in the high-risk gambling venture of new nuclear construction. It repeals the long-standing consumer protection that prevents electrical corporations from charging customers for "construction work in progress." This means that before a single kilowatt of power is generated, before a plant is even operational, Missouri families and small businesses will see their utility bills increase to cover the costs of construction, financing, and corporate profits on the project.

This is a fundamental inversion of risk. In a free market, corporations assume the financial risk of their investments. If a project fails, the corporation and its shareholders bear the loss. This bill socializes that risk, handing it over to the public, while privatizing the profits for the utility company. We learned this lesson the hard way with projects like the Ameren Iatan plant, where ratepayers were left on the hook for cost overruns and delays. This bill opens the door to repeating that mistake on a potentially massive scale, with customers bearing the burden of any imprudent management, cost escalation, or construction delays.

The premise that we need to subsidize new nuclear power to secure "clean baseload" energy is also misguided. The future of energy is not in expensive, centralized, large-scale nuclear projects that take decades to build, but in a decentralized grid powered by renewable sources like solar and wind, combined with rapidly advancing battery storage technology. These renewable alternatives are becoming cheaper and faster to deploy, putting the power of energy generation back into the hands of communities and individuals, not distant corporate monopolies.

Investing ratepayer dollars in 20th-century technology like small modular reactors is a step backward. It locks Missouri into a single, costly, and technologically challenging path for decades, diverting resources and political will away from the more sustainable, democratic, and economically viable solutions that a just transition to a green economy requires.

The bill attempts to mitigate this with clauses about refunds for imprudently incurred costs, but this is a hollow promise. It forces consumers into a lengthy and complex legal battle with a well-funded corporation to get their money back after the fact, rather than preventing the overcharge in the first place.

**We should not force Missourians to pay higher electricity bills today for a speculative, high-risk project that may not provide power for another twenty years. Please vote "no" on HB 1626 and protect Missouri consumers from this unnecessary financial burden.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LEA LANGDON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2026 1:11 PM</b>	
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**Missouri ratepayers shouldn't be forced to foot the bill for risky and unnecessary nuclear construction. Say no to HB 1626, and yes to the affordable clean energy future we need.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MELISSA VATTEROTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-727-0600</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COALITION ENVIRONMENT</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>25 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100, ST. LOUIS, MO 63130</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63130</b>
EMAIL: <b>mvatterott@moenvironment.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 12:23 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

February 18, 2026

Chairman Bob Bromley  
 Utilities Committee  
 MO House of Representatives  
 201 West Capitol Avenue  
 Room 401-A  
 Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Chairman Bromley and Members of the Committee,

Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. House Bill No. 1626 and House Bill No. 2122 would allow utilities to charge customers for new power plants before they are completed and operational. For nearly five-decades, Missouri had a long-standing ban on Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) that passed in 1976 under Proposition 1 with a 63% of the statewide vote (1). Last year this long-standing protection was partially overturned to allow CWIP for natural gas power plants. The legislature should not allow for further rollback that would empower monopoly utilities to profit from choosing more expensive and dangerous fuel sources than necessary. MCE therefore urges you to vote “no” on HB 1626 and HB 2122.

Missourians should not be forced to pay for any power plant that does not yet service their needs, and in the case of nuclear plants, may never do so. Nuclear power has long been a deeply risky investment with long term construction timelines, overshot budgets, and a history of uncompleted plants—so many there's an entire Wikipedia article listing them (2). It's estimated that nationwide, over \$33 billion has been spent on abandoned nuclear projects (3). Take Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, in Alabama, for example. It's a project that cost \$4 billion so far, construction has been abandoned twice, and the plant has never produced a single watt of electricity (4). Every day Missourians with no other choice but to purchase power from their local monopoly utility should not be forced to foot the bill when the potential for stranded assets is so high.

Creating new ways for monopoly utilities to charge more for an already expensive endeavor is particularly ill-advised when cheaper, safer, and faster to deploy electricity sources are widely

available. Solar, for example, costs between \$20-\$78 per megawatt-hour and takes less than two years to come online (5). Meanwhile, new nuclear generation ranges from \$141-\$228 per megawatt-hour and takes an average of 7.5 years to build (6).

Finally, foisting the high cost of nuclear energy on average Missourians is unfair because the long-term safety of this fuel source is still unclear. The United States and the state of Missouri currently lack a plan for the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel, and it has lacked this plan since the creation of nuclear power plants many decades ago. Currently, nuclear power plants throughout the country store spent radioactive fuel 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 (7). These waste materials have half-lives lasting between 24,000 and millions of years, so there is no guarantee current solutions will last long enough to protect the public (8). Future Missouri residents' health should not be put at risk by incentivizing more nuclear energy development. As such, MCE respectfully urges you to vote "no" on HB 1626 and HB 2122.

Sincerely,

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

(1) "Missouri Proposition 1, Electric Utility Rate Initiative (1976)"

[https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri\\_Proposition\\_1,\\_Electric\\_Utility\\_Rate\\_Initiative\\_\(1976\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_Proposition_1,_Electric_Utility_Rate_Initiative_(1976))

(2) "List of canceled nuclear reactors in the United States"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_canceled\\_nuclear\\_reactors\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_canceled_nuclear_reactors_in_the_United_States)

(3) "THE BIG PICTURE: Abandoned Nuclear Power Projects (Interactive Map)" Sonal Patel.

<https://www.powermag.com/interactive-map-abandoned-nuclear-power-projects/>

(4) "TVA CEO expects Bellefonte nuclear to be reality"

<https://electricityforum.com/news/tvaceoexpectsbellefontetobecomeareality>

(5) Lazard Levelized Cost of Energy+. Lazard Power, Energy and Infrastructure Group, 2025.

<https://www.lazard.com/media/eijnqja3/lazards-lcoeplus-june-2025.pdf>

(6) Ibid; "Global nuclear reactor construction starts and duration, 1949-2023" Cutler Cleveland.

<https://visualizingenergy.org/global-nuclear-reactor-construction-starts-and-duration-1949-2023/>

(7) How and where is nuclear waste stored in the U.S.?" Ohio State University Engineering.

<https://engineering.osu.edu/news/2025/05/how-and-where-nuclear-waste-stored-u.s.#:~:text=After%20about%20three%20to%20five,that%20owned%20the%20nuclear%20plant.>

(8) "Backgrounder on Radioactive Waste" <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/radwaste?utm>



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DREYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 11:06 PM</b>	

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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL WESTEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/16/2026 10:37 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. I OPPOSE HB1626.</b>		



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RIKE REUTER-HART</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/17/2026 9:40 AM</b>	
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**Missouri ratepayers should not be forced to pay for risky and unnecessary nuclear construction.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/16/2026 2:31 PM</b>	

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**HB 1626 reverses Missouri’s longstanding prohibition on charging ratepayers for facilities that are not yet operational — and extends that exception to nuclear generation.**

**This is Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) ratemaking. It shifts construction risk from shareholders to captive customers before a single kilowatt is delivered.**

**Even with refund language, the structure permits utilities to collect returns during construction, reducing financial discipline and increasing exposure if costs escalate — as nuclear projects historically do.**

**The bill also embeds a nonseverable rulemaking clause tied to Chapter 536 review authority, increasing the likelihood that future judicial rulings could destabilize implementation entirely.**

**This is not merely a financing mechanism. It is a reallocation of risk, capital structure, and regulatory leverage.**

**Legislative Notice:**

**Authorizing pre-operational cost recovery for nuclear construction materially alters traditional rate-base principles and shifts project risk to ratepayers.**

**Such ratemaking frameworks remain subject to challenge on grounds of imprudence, unjust enrichment, or arbitrary rate setting under Missouri public utility law.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KURT SCHAEFER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-522-6221</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1101 RIVERSIDE DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ZACH MONROE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-508-2467</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMEREN MISSOURI</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>101 MADISON</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/18/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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