



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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# Senate Gives Initial Approval to Koster's Green Power Initiative

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JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Senate gave first-round approval yesterday to a bill sponsored by Sen. Chris Koster, R-Harrisonville, establishing the Green Power Initiative. The legislation moves Missouri toward a more environmentally sound energy policy.

Senate Bill 915 will gradually increase Missouri's use of renewable energy sources by directing the state's regulated utilities to produce more electricity from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, water and bio-mass. Under Koster's legislation, regulated utilities in Missouri are charged with getting 3 percent of their electrical energy from renewable sources by 2012, 7 percent by 2015, and 10 percent by 2020.

"By setting this practical and cost-effective target for utilities, we are encouraging them to invest in renewable energy sources," Koster said. "This will enable Missouri to be more environmentally conscious as a state and keep consumer rates at affordable levels."

The participating corporations are required to report biannually to the Public Service Commission regarding their plans, activities and progress in achieving the energy-output goal. A consumer-protection clause is included in the legislation allowing the PSC to terminate the corporations' efforts if they are having an adverse effect on consumer prices.

"I applaud my Senate colleagues for committing to the effort to bring sustainability and responsibility to Missouri's energy supply," Koster said. "The Green Power Initiative marks considerable progress in the name of protecting the environment and looking out for the best interests of Missouri consumers."

The bill must receive a final round of approval from the Senate before moving to the House where it will receive similar consideration.

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