



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Koster's Green Power Initiative First to be Considered in Committee

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Chris Koster (R-Cass) received the distinction of being the author of the first bill heard in a committee of the Missouri General Assembly this session. Koster's bill aims to move Missouri toward a more environmentally sound energy policy by gradually increasing Missouri's use of renewable energy sources.

The Senate Commerce, Energy and the Environment Committee held a public hearing this morning on the legislation. Koster, industry representatives and advocacy groups testified on behalf of the bill.

"The goal of my legislation is to set a practical and cost-effective target for utilities so they are motivated to invest in renewable energy sources," Koster said. "This type of investment will create a market for emerging technologies and ensure a cleaner environment. I am pleased that the Commerce Committee has made its passage such a high priority."

SB 54 directs the state's regulated utilities to produce more electricity from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, water and bio-mass. Regulated utilities in Missouri are charged with generating 3 percent of their electrical energy from renewable sources by 2012, 7 percent by 2015, and 10 percent by 2020. 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.

Because no one spoke against the measure, Koster expects the committee to vote favorably on it next week. Committee approval would send the bill to the Senate floor for debate by the full body.

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