

Delbert Scott 28th Senate District

Capitol Building, Room 416 Jefferson City, MO 65101

A Weekly Column for the Week of Feb. 9, 2009 Contact: Debbie Poire (573) 751-8793

Producing Clean and Renewable Energy in Missouri

Bill Filed Creating the Missouri Clean and Renewable Energy Construction Act

In order to provide a much-needed economic boost and a foundation for future energy policy for our state, I have filed <u>Senate Bill 228</u>, which creates the Missouri Clean and Renewable Energy Construction Act.

Eligible power plants include nuclear facilities, coal-fired power plants that use technology to reduce carbon emissions, and power plants that generate energy from renewable resources, such as wind, solar, and biomass.

I strongly believe we need to look at the future of energy policy for our state, and that has to include alternative forms of energy. The proposed nuclear plant located in Callaway County would provide thousands of jobs over several years. Clean burning nuclear power plants provide a lower cost of production per kilowatt hour than any other generating source of energy. These plants, however, are very expensive to build and cannot be constructed in any other manner than what is called for in <u>Senate Bill 228</u>.

This measure is not just about "construction work in progress" or CWIP. Senate Bill 228 relates to the future of energy policy in Missouri. The legislation would allow the costs to produce nuclear, wind, and solar energy be included in costumers' utility rates during construction of the clean energy, low carbon-producing plant. The bill applies the CWIP measure to preconstruction costs only — not the cost of mortar, bricks, and steel. Senate Bill 228 also protects consumers by authorizing the power plant under construction to send a review to Missouri's Public Service Commission (PSC) every three months.

The PSC regulates investor-owned electric, stream, natural gas, water and sewer, and telephone companies. The commission ensures that consumers have access to safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility service while allowing the utility companies under their

jurisdiction the opportunity to earn a reasonable return on their investment.

Senate Bill 228 would protect consumers while providing Missourians with low-cost energy and plenty of power for citizens of this state. The bottom line here is that we have a choice. If we don't pass this legislation or the House version of the bill, we will not be able to build another nuclear power plant. Or we can choose to pass this bill in some form and CWIP the preconstruction costs resulting in a slight rate increase throughout construction. Then citizens will have little to no rate increase once the project is finished and online producing energy.

The passage of <u>Senate Bill 228</u> would show citizens throughout our state that we're looking into alternative energy sources and ensuring the future of energy policy for Missouri. If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please feel free to contact me at (573)751-8793 or by e-mail at: <u>delbertscott@senate.mo.gov</u>.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

