

EXTERNALITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

OPPOSE HF 3110 (NEWBERGER); SF 3902 (MATHEWS)

This Bill Forbids Consideration of Environmental Costs

Currently, utilities must prove that any facility that uses nonrenewable resources is less expensive than renewable alternatives, including environmental costs.

Environmental costs include:

- those associated with climate change—such as extreme heat events, flash flooding, and drought; and
- human health impacts from poor air quality like asthma and cardiovascular disease.

But HF 3110/SF 3902 would eliminate the requirement that utilities consider environmental costs when determining whether a proposed large energy facility is the most cost-effective option.

Cost-Effectiveness is Important

Recently the environmental costs used by utilities were updated to account for new science for the first time in decades.

This bill would reverse this progress and prevent the true costs of burning fossil fuels—and the true benefits of renewable energy—from being realized.

When externalities are not included, the projects that truly are most cost-effective for society may not be chosen.

HERE IS A PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Utilities should be required to continue using the recently updated environmental cost values when comparing energy resource options.



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