



ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR TO OPPOSE

HB 200: Reliable and dispatchable low-carbon energy standards

Wyoming needs to transition towards affordable, diversified, and clean energy. Doubling down on coal — as outlined in this bill — will harm Wyoming residents.

BACKGROUND

This bill narrowly defines "reliable" and "dispatchable" sources of electricity to fossil fuel sources, excluding any sources that are "intermittent" like wind and solar. It then requires a certain percentage of all public utilities' energy to come from those "reliable" and "dispatchable" sources by July 2030.

The bill also prevents utilities from passing the cost of new electric generation to ratepayers if the project replaces existing coal power, making renewable infrastructure very expensive to build.

However, the bill prioritizes the use of unproven carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies and allows utilities to pass the costs of those unproven technologies on to ratepayers — up to \$1 billion per utility, with Public Service Commission approval.

Commercially-viable carbon sequestration technology is not yet in play in our state, and it may be many years away from successful economic implementation. Yet this bill mandates that public utilities generate a certain amount of energy with this still-in-development technology.

THE IMPACTS

HB 200 reverses the long history of our state's electricity regulation, which prioritizes low-cost, reliable energy for Wyoming residents.

- The bill mandates the use of certain energy sources in spite of the economics and national markets that are making renewables cheaper energy sources in many places.
- 80 percent of electricity produced in Wyoming is exported. Because Wyoming is part of a six-state grid compact, other states' Public Service Commissions would have to approve the rate increases caused by this legislation. Due to this uncertainty and unlikely approval, this could mean that Wyoming people would be saddled with enormous costs to subsidize the continued use of coal.
- The state is picking winners and losers in a commercial sector. The cost of these mandates will inevitably increase our electricity rates and turn away critical investment in new jobs and economic diversification in a new energy economy in Wyoming.

WHAT ABOUT CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION?

- Millions of dollars has been spent in Wyoming over decades to develop carbon capture and sequestration projects. Economical CCS is still not deployable. (Enhanced oil recovery using CO₂ is already happening extensively in our state, but this use is not the same as sequestration.)
- SF 90, Carbon technology electrical utility agreements, is a bill that is advancing this session and allows utilities to enter into agreements with carbon technology enterprises, so long as costs are not passed on to ratepayers. This is a better path for advancing low carbon electricity generation than HB 200.