

Testimony of Dan Greenberg on HB20-1064

Madame Chair and Committee Members, my name is Dan Greenberg. I have a 25+ year career working as a PUC staffer, as an analyst in the solar industry and as a consultant to the electric power industry. I have been working with Representative Hooton to develop this bill.

Fundamentally, this bill is asking the state to investigate a moderate alteration to the utility regulatory structure that has been in place in this state for over a century. This structure arose at a time when electricity generation was a natural monopoly, meaning that the larger a generator was, the lower its unit cost, so that larger companies could always underprice their smaller competitors, and drive them out of business. This is the fundamental reason the concept of the regulated electric monopoly swept across the country early in the 20th century. But whereas electrical distribution will always remain a regulated monopoly, today, new technologies and economies of mass production have surpassed economies of scale. The generation of electricity is now a very competitive business, as witnessed by the vibrant wholesale electricity markets operating in many parts of the country.

But not here. The reality is that there remains no justification for the state to continue propping up the antiquated economic anomaly of the regulated monopoly on generation. This is particularly true when the competitive market is demonstrating loud and clear that it is ready to supply Colorado consumers with ample, low-cost renewable power.

But to me, this new economic reality is of minor importance relative to the global environmental imperative to decarbonize all sectors of our economy. I believe that our society must move as quickly, but also as wisely as possible to investigate and implement all promising policies and technologies. CCE has the potential to harness market forces to accelerate the decarbonization of our electricity supply—even compared to Xcel’s commitment of 80% reduction by 2030, and to do so while keeping electric rates in check.

This legislature owes it to the citizens of Colorado to fully and fairly investigate this promising policy option, and to determine whether it can deliver on the promise of a rapidly decarbonizing grid that so many communities in this state are clamoring for. I hope that you will vote to support Rep. Hooton’s CCE Study Bill.

Dan Greenberg
Dan@EnergyFreedomCO.org
303-386-2294