

From: kassieandrews <kassieandrews@proton.me>

Date: On Sat, Apr 12, 2025 at 10:41 AM

Subject: Fw: Opposition to HB 153

To: house.energy@akleg.gov <house.energy@akleg.gov>

Cc:

Members of the House Energy Committee,

I am writing today to strongly urge you to oppose HB 153.

This bill would force our cooperatives into unreliable and unstable energy sources like wind and solar. The State of Alaska should not be taking on the liability of mandating these sources, especially given the increasing concerns over grid stability and ratepayer costs.

Over the last few years, we have witnessed a steady erosion of accountability from our co-op boards. HB 153 would seal that erosion into law. It hands the boards yet another excuse to deflect responsibility when rates inevitably rise or when we experience blackouts and brownouts. The response will be simple: “It’s the state’s mandate.”

This is yet another example of government interference undermining the authority and responsibility of our publicly owned cooperatives. Ratepayers are not asking for higher electric bills. Ratepayers are not asking for more reliability problems. Yet that is exactly what this bill invites. If this continues, our co-ops will soon be reduced to nothing more than glorified billing departments.

We don’t have to imagine where this leads — just look to Texas. They implemented a renewable portfolio standard and now operate under ERCOT, their reliability council. During Winter Storm Uri, over 70 people died, and economic damages soared into the hundreds of billions. ERCOT, once claiming immunity, is now facing class action lawsuits. Some cases have been dismissed, but many are ongoing. The legal and financial fallout is far from over.

We should be learning from these disasters of centralized planning and mandates — not racing to repeat them here in Alaska.

Furthermore, just days ago, President Trump issued executive orders aimed at restoring energy freedom and specifically pushing back on state mandates like the one proposed in HB 153. In the order titled “Protecting American Energy from State Overreach,” it states:

“State-imposed mandates and restrictions that limit the type, quantity, or method of energy production or delivery within a State or region pose a threat to national energy security, public welfare, and the resilience of the electrical grid.”

This is exactly what HB 153 represents. It limits energy choices, it undermines grid reliability, and it puts both ratepayers and taxpayers on the hook for an unreliable, high-risk experiment. The federal government has recognized the danger in these state-level mandates — and so should we.

The responsibility for affordable, reliable power belongs with our co-op boards. If these technologies were truly viable, the boards already have the authority to adopt them voluntarily. But they haven't, because they know the liability and risk. Instead, they are looking for the state to hand them a mandate, giving them someone else to blame when — not if, but when — the consequences arrive.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge you: do not advance HB 153.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kassie Andrews