



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGNC VIGOROUSLY OPPOSES BILL TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD FOR COLORADO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

PARACHUTE, CO – The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado announced today that it is vehemently opposed to a bill being introduced in the State Senate that would raise the renewable standard by 150% on rural electric cooperatives that provide service to 100,000 meters or more. It also imposed the increase on the state's only wholesale electric power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, which owns the Craig power generating station.

SB13-252, co-sponsored by Senate President John Morse (D-Colorado Springs) and Sen. Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass), would increase the renewable energy mandate from 10% to 25%, starting in 2020, an amount that AGNC Executive Director Scott McInnis said would be impossible to achieve, and will result in enormous costs to both Tri-State and to consumers.

“This is a crippling measure that could cost Tri-State billions of dollars, and those costs will be passed down to the consumer,” McInnis said, adding that even more costs could be accrued through the need for additional transmission. “SB 252 is a terrible bill that will present massive cost impacts on residents utilizing rural electric cooperatives, and will negatively affect every industry in northwest Colorado, from mining, to the skiing, to everything in between.”

In addition to the enormous costs to Tri-State, its members, and consumers, and the colossal negative impact on jobs and the regional economy that the bill poses, McInnis said that the way in which it was developed and presented is equally appalling.

“This bill was drawn up behind closed doors, and now the Senate President and House Speaker are using their positions to fast-track it in the final weeks of the legislative session,” said McInnis. “This is hardly an example of transparency, where a bill is written in secret and rushed through at the last minute, with no thought towards the costs.”

SB13-252 will be heard in the Senate State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on Monday at 1:30 pm.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Scott McInnis at 970-625-1723

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AGNC is a voluntary regional association representing cities and counties in northwest Colorado including Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat and Routt.