

## Message from the Governor

Though this attempt at crafting energy policy for the state has small steps in the right direction, I cannot support the legislative companion to this bill, which puts the regulatory permitting process into the hands of a part-time Legislature.

Additionally, this legislation not only contains a rate increase on every Kansas utility customer but directs the majority of these taxpayer receipts to a fund used solely for the benefit of one electric company. Throughout this entire Session, the Legislature has failed to craft a comprehensive energy policy for our state. Here, nearing the end, their one statewide policy is to raise the electric bill of every Kansan.

This bill also expands the suggested legislative intrusion in the business of power companies by mandating Sunflower offer electricity generated at the new plants to utilities across the state, without any assurances in regard to price, availability or transmission lines. Having the Legislature dictate the business decisions of private companies establishes another questionable precedent that could hinder the recruitment of other businesses to our state. Clearly Kansas can do better.

I appreciate the legislative endorsement of my work with utility companies to enact renewable portfolio standards across our state. And I believe we should work together to address many of the issues raised with this legislation, including an analysis of carbon emissions in our state, expanding weatherization assistance programs to encourage energy efficiency and research in the field of renewable energy.

However, by attempting to force Kansans to pay for another state's power, legislative leadership has failed to move our state forward strategically. I remain ready and willing to work with all of the energy producers in Kansas to find that common ground on which true progress can be built. Therefore, pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I veto Senate Substitute for House Bill 2802.

Vetoed: May 16, 2008

Signed, Kathleen Sebelius  
Governor