



Smart, Secure, Stable: Energy Policy Legislation Pre-filed for 2018 Legislative Session

Missouri State Sen. Ed Emery (R-31, Lamar) pre-filed energy legislation (SB 564) on Dec. 1 for the upcoming 2018 Missouri legislative session. The bill supports building a modern energy grid in the state that is in line with what customers are asking for: smarter energy, more secure energy and more stable energy rates.

Recently, consumer organizations have stepped up to support a cap on energy rates.

"We understand that electricity rates in Missouri have risen four times faster than the national average over the past decade," said David Overfelt, president, Missouri Retailers Association. "Missouri could lose its status as a low-cost energy state. Put simply, if we can't find a way to better control electricity costs in our state, many Missouri retailers who are already facing ever-rising operating costs and unfair Internet competition may call it quits."

"As was pointed out recently by the Missouri Retailers Association, Missouri's energy costs have recently increased four times faster than the national average," said Dan Shaul, executive director, Missouri Grocers Association. "It's time for the Missouri General Assembly to act, and act quickly, before it is too late. Despite this energy cost trend, Missouri is still a relatively low-cost energy state, but we will lose this position without immediate action in the 2018 legislative session."

SB 564 proposes limiting the average annual electric rate increase at 3%. The legislation is, in part, a response to calls from consumer groups and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This legislation supports bending the cost curve downward for electricity, while at the same time unlocking more than \$1 billion in grid improvements, attracting business to the state and creating jobs.

“The Missouri Chamber appreciates this movement toward compromise in solving Missouri’s energy challenges,” said Dan Mehan, Missouri Chamber of Commerce CEO. “The Chamber recognizes the advantage of affordable and reliable energy in retaining and attracting businesses to our state. The Missouri Chamber will support efforts and work with business leaders, utility providers, and community leaders to drive a collaborative long-term solution to address Missouri’s aging infrastructure while ensuring continued reliable energy at predictable and competitive rates for customers.”

Sen. Emery and State Rep. T.J. Berry (R-38, Kearney), who pre-filed similar legislation in the House (HB 1575), said they have been working with various stakeholders this year to come up with a potential compromise to reform Missouri’s 100-year-old energy regulations. The lawmakers believe there is growing consensus that the status quo is hurting Missouri’s economy and slowing modernization of the state’s energy grid.

“When it comes to Missouri energy policy, the status quo just isn’t working for Missouri families and businesses for two primary reasons,” said Sen. Emery. “Energy prices are going up faster in Missouri than most states, while at the same time we aren’t making significant enough progress in modernizing our grid. This legislation aims to make future energy costs more stable and predictable and supports a modern, smart and secure energy grid to better serve Missourians.”

“There is a great need to pass legislation this year,” said Rep. Berry. Low energy prices have traditionally been an economic advantage in Missouri. Yet inaction by Missouri lawmakers has caused this advantage to slowly disappear. Action now means we keep our low-cost energy advantage which benefits our constituents and Missouri businesses. This legislation supports consumers’ call for stable and predictable prices,

unlocks additional grid improvements, and keeps or enhances current regulatory oversight of utilities.”

"We're pleased that the bill sponsors are continuing to work with all parties, including consumer groups, toward a solution," said Warren Wood, vice president, External Affairs and Communications, Ameren Missouri. "Ameren Missouri has been saying for quite some time that we need to make Missouri's energy grid smarter and more secure in a way that's good for customers. We're optimistic that progress may finally be made, and if we can make a form of rate cap legislation work, we will."

The 2018 Missouri legislative session begins at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Visit the *POWERforward* website (www.powerforwardmo.com) for more information about SB 564/HB 1575.



Ameren Missouri Offers Innovative Program to Give Customers More Renewable Energy Choices

Renewable Choice Program to Help Customers Meet Renewable Energy Goals

In keeping with an ongoing commitment to incorporate more renewable energy, Ameren Missouri is proposing an innovative way to help large businesses and cities across Missouri reach their renewable energy goals.

Ameren Missouri's Renewable Choice Program is the first in the state, and one of only a handful in the nation, designed to help these customers meet their energy needs from clean, renewable wind generation.

"The Renewable Choice Program would give our environmentally-minded business and municipal customers a convenient way to receive more of their energy from renewable resources," said Ajay Arora, vice president of Environmental Services and Generation Resource Planning at Ameren. Under the program, customers could subscribe to purchase up to 100 percent of their average energy usage from renewable resources.

Plans were recently filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission.

"We know our customers are looking for personalized solutions that allow them more control over their energy use, and this is one of the ways Ameren Missouri is delivering," adds Mike Mueller, vice president of Economic and Technology Development at Ameren.

The Renewable Choice Program builds off of Ameren Missouri's recently announced Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which was developed with the input of a

wide variety of stakeholders. That plan supports Ameren's goal of transitioning its energy generation to cleaner sources while ensuring reliability and keeping customer rates affordable. The IRP calls for the addition of at least 700 megawatts of wind generation by 2020 and 100 megawatts of solar generation in the next 10 years. Ameren Missouri has also established a goal of reducing its carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050 based on 2005 levels.



Ameren Missouri Supporting Festive Holiday Lights Celebrations Throughout Missouri

Ameren is partnering with a variety of organizations throughout the state to provide support for holiday light festivals and promotions that are occurring during the celebratory season.

The annual **Festival of Lights** event kicked off in November, with the lighting of the Salvation Army Tree of Lights and celebration at Kiener Plaza in St. Louis. In addition to sponsoring this family-friendly event, Ameren Missouri co-workers have made it an annual tradition to volunteer their time to actually construct the massive outdoor tree that welcomes thousands of visitors to the downtown area each season. The event also included a host of entertainment, a festive fireworks finale and the Winterfest skating rink, in partnership with the Gateway Arch Park Foundation.

In Southeast Missouri, the popular **12 Nights of Lights** contest returns. Residents are asked to submit photos and videos of their holiday lighting displays which are shown during the local nightly newscast.

Also, co-workers supported the **Old Town Cape Parade of Lights** in Cape Girardeau (pictured). In addition to a special appearance from "Louie" the lightning bug, the community came together to support a memorable day of holiday fun.

In Northeast Missouri, Ameren joined the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee to host the **"Light the Square"** celebration. This first annual tradition officially kicked off the holiday season for Kirksville. Supporting organizations that help

POWER *forward*»

December 18, 2017

make communities stronger and thrive are lighting the path for future generations and shining a positive light on communities like Kirksville.

Ameren Missouri is committed to making the communities it serves better and brighter places to live through volunteerism and supporting local organizations that illuminate opportunities to affect positive change in neighborhoods. As always, safety of your family and our co-workers is our number one priority. So this holiday season, we want to remind you – never overload your electrical outlets and keep electrical connections off the ground and away from water. Keep your holiday safe and bright.

To learn how Ameren Missouri is shining a light across the communities it serves, visit AmerenMissouri.com/Community.



Power Profile: John Mehner, Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce

Driven By Purpose, Invested in the Business of Helping People

From the starting gate, John Mehner, chief executive officer and president of the Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, has been in the business of helping people. Driven by passion and purpose, Mehner has devoted his career to community involvement and business development.

“I enjoy being able to make a difference in the community,” said Mehner. “I have the daily opportunity to work and connect with great people and together we have the ability to create a lasting impact on the Cape Girardeau area. That’s priceless.”

Recognized with the Leadership Missouri Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mehner has dedicated more than 24 years of service to the Cape Girardeau area. However, despite his roots in business development, Mehner did not begin his career as most would presume.

Prior to becoming a business leader in southeast Missouri, Mehner spent his time fighting crime in St. Louis County as a police officer.

“Nothing could have better prepared me for my future career undertakings than my time in law enforcement,” Mehner said. “In police work, you have to be able to immediately assess the situation and make split-second decisions that are correct.

From a carry-over standpoint, my time in law enforcement was very rewarding and served as an influential training ground for my later endeavors.”

Following four years in law enforcement, Mehner returned home to his father’s family-owned telecommunication business in Cape Girardeau. Shortly thereafter, he began volunteering with the local Chamber of Commerce.

“I fell in love with what the Chamber did and what it sought to accomplish for the area. When the opportunity arose to serve as its president, I followed my heart.”

Mehner credits his time working within the small-business sector, to his understanding and awareness of what factors can drive-home profit or limit growth of local businesses within the area. Currently, Missouri is only one of four states that have not yet taken the vital steps to update and improve its energy policies. He acknowledged the emerging need for a smarter, cleaner, and more stable supply of energy not only within the Cape Girardeau area, but the state as well.

“In the near future, aging utility infrastructure will have a negative and hindering impact on businesses at the local and state level,” Mehner said. “Reliability is a major concern. As the frequency and duration of power outages increases, the ability for Cape Girardeau and the state to attract and grow new businesses will decline. Additionally, as our society rapidly advances in the digital world, cyber security is an extremely crucial concern that must be addressed.”

Mehner noted he supports investor-owned electric utilities in their efforts to improve grid modernization and further develop utility services that are secure, reliable and dependable.

“Ameren has been a great partner over the years,” he said. “They [Ameren] have done a great job supplying reliable energy at an affordable rate.”

Looking back on his career progression from a St. Louis County police officer to the current CEO and president of the Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, Mehner is grateful for the continued opportunity to positively impact the world around him. When asked about his plans for the future, he simply stated, “Keep doing what I’m doing – helping people.”