

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Senate Energy Committee. My name is Randy Cunningham and I am testifying on my own behalf.

There are two comments I wish to make concerning Senate Bill 2. First, is the provision that for energy sources over 50 mw, that are on private land, the time frame for approval from the siting board will be 45 days. 45 days is the blink of an eye. It does not allow adequate time for comment from the public or other interested parties, who may wish to object to a gas energy facility to locate in the middle of a neighborhood, residential area, city or town, with all the issues of pollution, air quality, and toxic byproducts of a gas generator. A longer time frame is needed to protect the public interest. A short time frame of 45 days may protect the interests of the private concern applying for a permit, but not the public interest.

Second is that local governments should have the right to decide on the desirability of a development. Currently they can object to a solar or wind project. But they have no say about a fossil fuel project that will carry with it many more hazards than a solar and wind project. Local communities should have a say in what sort of energy project they may have as neighbors.

Penalizing renewable energy projects in contrast to fossil fuel projects is undemocratic, and uncompetitive and shows a favoritism for the fossil fuel industry.

Thank you,

Randy Cunningham