

Testimony on HB 2708: Renewable Energy from Storage Devices

Senate Utilities Committee

March 7, 2012

Rep. Tom Sloan

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members: Some of you have previously heard me speak about the increasing use of energy storage devices in conjunction with wind energy (e.g., Minnesota), solar (e.g., California), transmission (e.g., Texas), and distribution (e.g., KCPL's scheduled Power & Light District project).

HB 22708 addresses the definition of renewable energy generation (e.g., wind, solar) and states that for energy storage (e.g., compressed air, batteries, fly wheels) connected to any renewable generation unit(s), the out-put of energy from such devices shall still be classified as renewable. The concept is simple – “green” power in, “green” power out.

This is important as renewable energy developers, electric utilities, the Southwest Power Pool, and electric customers seek to move renewable energy from simply being energy (electrons when the wind blows or sun shines) to capacity (electrons available for dispatch). Energy storage can provide the capability of making renewable energy more “base-load like.”

This is a simple bill that states that renewable energy stored is still renewable energy when dispatched. The House Energy & Utilities Committee thought that the bill was so noncontroversial that it was placed on the Consent Calendar. Thank you for your consideration of this issue and I look forward to your questions.