

House Bill 1455

Presented by: Randy Christmann, Commissioner
Public Service Commission

Before: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Curt Kreun, Chairman

Date: March 19, 2021

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Randy Christmann, Commissioner with the Public Service Commission. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments today.

In its current format, this bill requires all electric generation facilities to notify the commission and the auditor of the county if an owner considers removing the electric energy conversion facility. This would include dozens of wind farms and natural gas peaking plants, as well as large baseload generation facilities like the Coal Creek station. The vast majority of them are not under the Commission's jurisdiction.

To the extent that a facility is jurisdictional to the commission, we would already be aware of its upcoming closure through the IRP process which is being significantly enhanced in HB 1067. However, this bill does not grant the Commission any additional authority to take any action regarding planned closures.

If the intent is to address the closures of coal plants, most of the current coal plants within the state are not under the Commission's jurisdiction. It would be very misleading for us to accept public comments on something that is non-jurisdictional and will give the public the perception that the Commission has jurisdiction it does not have.

The Commission requests that you amend this bill by removing the PSC and instead requiring the owner of the generation facility to hold a public hearing or meeting to provide information regarding the closure to the public and receive comments.