

# Don't Promote Excess Burning of Coal in Missouri Oppose SB 756 and HB 1734



Senate Bill 756 and House Bill 1734 create new incentives for the burning of coal in the State of Missouri, resulting in increased unnecessary pollution on our land, in our water and in the atmosphere.

Both bills create discounted electric rates for new large energy users, such as industrial or commercial customers. There are two categories of discounted electric rates. New customers with demand between 300 KW and 10 MW would get a 35% discounted rate for five years. New customers with demand above 10 MW would get an even higher discount (it would vary between utilities) for ten years.



Utilities would still be made whole, meaning that the costs avoided by these new large customers would shift to other customers. In addition to being unfair to these other customers, these discounted rates could be used by cryptocurrency mining operations.

We've seen utilities exploring cryptocurrency mining as a way to prop up uneconomic coal plants. In fact, last year, Ameren conducted a cryptocurrency mining pilot project at its Sioux plant.

Why should utilities like Ameren and Evergy be allowed to give massive discounts to new large customers like Bitcoin at the expense of other customers in order to create demand for their uneconomic and dirty coal plants? Ameren and Evergy should instead be accelerating their transition from dirty coal to less expensive clean energy in order to save money for all customers.

HB 1734 includes an amendment that worsens a problematic provision of the securitization law passed last year. Securitization is a tool available to utilities to refinance debt on aging coal plants, retire them, and use the savings to invest in clean energy and pass savings on to customers. The current law already gives the Public Service Commission the authority, if certain conditions are met, to allow a utility to securitize a coal plant, but not fully retire it based on concerns over potential extreme weather, and continue to recover costs for that plant from customers. The amended bill would change the law to require the PSC to allow the utility to continue recovering costs for an uneconomic coal plant under these circumstances. This would further negate the benefits that securitization is supposed to provide in reducing pollution and costs to consumers.

**SCS SB 969 is sponsored by Senator White. HB 1734 is sponsored by Representative O'Donnell.**