

Hold Northwestern Energy Accountable

Oppose SB 237 Revise Community Renewable Energy Project Requirements (Sponsored by Senator Doug Kary): This bill would reward the company for bad behavior and rob tribal and low-income energy assistance programs of \$2.5 million.

- SB 237 would eliminate the Community Renewable Energy Projects program (CREP), which was meant to prompt construction of small renewable projects throughout Montana.
- By law, Northwestern Energy (NWE) is required to invest in these CREP projects by purchasing 75 MW of power from them each year. The company failed to comply with the law for multiple years and has been ordered by a judge to pay a penalty fee of \$2.5 million dollars.
- This bill eliminates the community renewable energy projects requirement from Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard and removes NWE shareholders' responsibility to pay the penalty, letting Northwestern Energy off without any sort of accountability for their actions.
- The \$2.5 million dollar penalty fee would fund tribal and low-income energy assistance programs.
- NorthWestern Energy has a [long history](#) of refusing to comply with CREP and this bill excuses the company's bad behavior.

The Latest in a Long History of Corporate Overreach by NorthWestern Energy

We're seeing a slurry of NWE-sponsored bills and bills that prioritize the company's interests over Montanans this legislative session as the company continues its history of aggressive interference in the Montana Legislature. NWE is a for-profit company with a guaranteed monopoly over supplying energy to most of Western Montana. This company plays a key role in determining Montana's energy supply mix and energy future. NWE stands out in comparison with many other utilities across the country for its drive to build new fossil fuel plants in the middle of a climate emergency.

What can you do?

See the [current bill text](#) to learn more & check out our [citizen lobbying resources](#).
For more information on this bill, check out this article in the [Billings Gazette](#).

This bill was referred to the House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee on March 2nd and will be headed to the House floor if it passes committee. Right now, you can:

- 1) Call (406) 444-4800 and ask to leave a message for the House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee urging them to OPPOSE this bill.
- 2) Call (406) 444-4800 and ask to leave a message for your Representative asking them to OPPOSE this bill.