

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 239

Introduced by Kolowski, 31; Blood, 3; Vargas, 7; Wishart, 27.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine issues related to solar energy development in Nebraska. Solar energy can provide many benefits, including providing stable energy costs for customers and power districts, providing energy at times of peak demand, helping businesses and residences reduce their energy usage and lower their energy bills, and keeping energy dollars in the community, instead of sending them out of state. Solar energy can be sited in both rural and urban areas and near the place of energy usage.

Additionally, there is a great deal of interest in solar energy among Nebraskans, and Nebraska has great potential for solar energy development. Solar energy can help attract new business and provide benefits to Nebraska's public power districts by generating economic development in their service areas. It is also the policy of the State of Nebraska to promote solar energy development. Despite this, there has been insufficient solar energy development in Nebraska.

The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) Methods of increasing solar energy development in this state, including whether additional incentives are needed;

(2) Methods of helping businesses and agricultural operations make use of solar energy to reduce energy costs and improve their bottom line;

(3) Methods of authorizing individuals and businesses to invest in larger solar projects, including virtual net metering;

(4) Methods of removing barriers to solar energy development, including reducing governmental red tape;

(5) Successful policies and programs in other states; and

(6) Any other issues that will facilitate a full and complete examination

of solar energy and solar energy development in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.