



Bill Number and Title	LB 266, Adopt the Renewable Energy Standards Act
Bill Issue	Renewable Portfolio Standard, Carbon Regulation
Introduced by/Hearing Date	John McCollister

LB 266

BACKGROUND

The NREA has long opposed federal or state mandates that would impose minimum levels of renewable energy capacity, such as a renewable energy or portfolio standard. Government mandates that place a requirement on the amount of renewable generation Nebraska must use undermine the long-term strategic planning efforts of Nebraska’s locally-controlled public power entities.

Decisions about adding electric generation resources should be made on sound business principles and should not ignore the economic and scientific realities that accompany the expanded development of renewable energy.

The end goal of LB 266 is to require the state’s electric generators to reduce carbon emissions. Many of the state’s electric generators have already set goals that make LB 266 unnecessary. OPPD has set a goal to be net carbon neutral by 2050. LES has a goal to be net carbon neutral by 2040, and NPPD currently has a generation fleet that is more than 60 percent carbon free.

SUMMARY/WRITING BULLET POINTS

- LB 266 requires that “public power suppliers shall achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.”
 - Although undefined in the bill, net-zero refers to the balancing of CO2 emissions emitted with the equivalent CO2 emissions offset, sequestered, or altogether removed.
- LB 266 would apply to all public power districts and electric cooperatives.
- LB 266 would allow a demand-side management facility and nuclear power, among other renewable resources, to be used in the calculation for net-zero carbon emissions.
- The Act shall would not apply if the board of directors of the power supplier makes a declaration that compliance with this Act will negatively affect the reliable operation of the district.

POSITION:

THE NREA OPPOSES
THE NPA OPPOSES