

## **SB 349: COMPROMISES AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY FOR KENTUCKIANS**

*This bill would game the regulatory process against renewable energy that is in fact dispatchable and clean, in favor of retaining uneconomic, polluting, aging fossil fuel plants in a manner that makes it more costly and lengthy in our inevitable transition to a lower-carbon renewable energy future.*

### **SB 349 compromises affordability --**

- Would end KY's energy policy that governs utility regulation- utilities should meet ratepayers' electricity needs through the MOST REASONABLE, LOWEST-COST OPTION
- Bill does NOT make 'affordability' a priority
- The monetary cost of our energy includes an accounting for the pollution it creates, consequently renewable energy and natural gas are becoming cheaper energy options
- This would drive costs up for ratepayers by:
  - Imposing barriers and delays on retiring UNECONOMIC energy generating units
  - Thwarting diversification of KY's energy profile by eliminating increasingly less expensive energy options, like renewable energy, from being considered as replacement capacity
- Energy demand is growing, then why would Kentucky categorically exclude certain types of power?

### **SB 349 contains empty promises --**

- Coal-fired power plants in KY do not source coal from Appalachia, and will not impact the local coal economy
- Western Kentucky produces more coal than Eastern Kentucky, yet employs far less (less than half) coal miners that are employed in Eastern KY

### **SB 349 impairs and interferes with the Public Service Commission unnecessarily--**

- Unworkable deadline on PSC decisions – rushed and less thorough decisions on complex issues impacting residential, commercial, and industrial consumers alike
- Would subject consultants that don't produce evidence in cases to cross-examination
- Grants unlimited intervention in PSC cases that could lead to unnecessary delays for other cases
- PSC employees are already under-staffed and overburdened
- The Cabinet estimates EPIC will cost the state \$1.5 million dollars

### **SB 349 creates a structural conflict of interest in the “energy planning and inventory commission” (EPIC)--**

- Stacked with representatives in energy sectors that have a financial interest in advocating against the retirement of fossil fuel plants, and only one slot for residential customers
- Produces reports and recommendations that the PSC is required to incorporate into its findings without subjecting it to discovery or cross examination – a violation of due process rights
- Empowers EPIC to consider issues the PSC considers to be outside its jurisdiction, like external economic impacts, WITHOUT considering other important issues such as public health, climate change impacts, and environmental justice

### **SB 349 creates redundancy and confusion --**

- Renewable energy is considered in the industry to be both “dispatchable” and “intermittent” by energy sector participants, yet this bill exclusively categorizes it as “dispatchable”
- Several energy sector participants already issue reports that EPIC is being created to issue- for example, demands and energy forecasts, resources summaries, and reserve margins, long-term and seasonal reliability assessments, and retirement and reliability study impacts to the grid

**PROTECT AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY: VOTE “NO” on SB 349**