

REFERENCE TITLE: energy rules; urging adoption

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SCM 1002

Introduced by
Senators Sundareshan: Alston, Burch, Epstein, Gabaldón, Hernandez, Mendez,
Terán

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CORPORATION COMMISSION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED ENERGY RULES THAT
WERE PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Members of the Corporation Commission:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the current Arizona renewable energy standards end with 15%
4 renewable generation by 2025; and

5 Whereas, the renewable energy standards are an important tool for
6 transitioning utility energy portfolios away from fossil fuel generation
7 and toward renewable energy, including solar and wind; and

8 Whereas, a transition away from fossil fuel generation is important
9 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impact of climate
10 change; and

11 Whereas, Arizona has abundant sunshine but does not yet lead the
12 country in solar generation; and

13 Whereas, over the past three years, the staff of the Corporation
14 Commission (Commission) studied and developed proposed standards for
15 renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage and distributed
16 generation; and

17 Whereas, the newly proposed energy rules would have required
18 utilities to achieve 50% emissions-free electricity by 2032 and 100%
19 emissions-free electricity by 2050, as well as an energy efficiency
20 standard and energy storage requirement that included customer-owned
21 systems; and

22 Whereas, a diverse array of stakeholder groups favored the newly
23 proposed standards, including major Arizona utilities, environmental
24 groups and consumer advocates; and

25 Whereas, in 2022 the Commission failed to pass these proposed
26 standards, expressing concerns of costs to the ratepayers despite the fact
27 that rising consumer costs in recent years is due to natural gas price
28 increases; and

29 Whereas, multiple utilities are now seeking rate increases
30 specifically due to the rising cost of natural gas; and

31 Whereas, the Commission's failure to update this state's renewable
32 energy standards will continue to keep ratepayers captive to these rising
33 fuel costs and at the mercy of the gas market.

34 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House
35 of Representatives concurring, prays:

36 1. That the Members of the Corporation Commission adopt, as soon as
37 practicable, the proposed energy rules that were previously considered by
38 the Commission.

39 2. That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this Memorial to
40 the Members of the Corporation Commission.