

Consumer Choice in Energy #s 85 & 86

Recommend **OPPOSE**

#85 Consumer Choice in Energy

Objective: Allow individual consumer choice in type or source of energy by prohibiting adoption of statutes, ordinances, rules, resolutions, or codes that prohibit or discriminate against the connection of an energy source based on type or source of energy to be delivered for heating/cooling systems, hot water, cooking, generators.

The initiative appears to be directed to energy use in residences or privately-owned commercial buildings (individual consumers of energy) and not to public buildings such as hospitals, government offices/facilities.

#86 Consumer Choice in Energy

Objective: Protects individual consumer choice by preventing a statute, ordinance, regulation or code from restricting an energy source either by favoring or discriminating against based on type of energy to be delivered for cooking, hot water, generators, or heating systems.

“Energy” is defined as electricity, natural gas, solar energy device, or wind electric generation.

The initiative appears to be directed to energy use in residences or privately-owned commercial buildings (individual consumers of energy) and not to public buildings such as hospitals, government offices/facilities.

Both initiatives represent a step backward in our state’s efforts to reduce effects of greenhouse gas emissions by setting goals and by establishing appropriate building codes for use in local jurisdictions (HB22-1362 Building Greenhouse Gas Emissions). Colorado supports building for energy conservation, electric appliance upgrades, cleaner transportation options, and alternatives for reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Certain new appliances sold in Colorado must meet energy efficiency standards (HB19-1231 New Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Standards). Local jurisdictions are required to adopt one of the 3 most recent versions of the International Energy Conservation Code (ICC), at a minimum, when updating any other building code (HB19-1260: Building Energy Codes).

Further, the Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy) and Black Hills Energy, in recognition of their authorized monopolies, must submit plans to the Public Utilities Commission binding them to specified reductions in GHG emissions.

Passage of either of these initiatives could make meeting many goals and requirements already in statute or regulation more difficult for governments and utilities if local jurisdictions cannot implement building codes for clean energy and electrification.

League Positions

Global warming is due to greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere that are primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels and include methane/natural gas, oil, gasoline, diesel, propane, butane and other species.

Colorado has set goals for reduction of GHG emissions of 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050. LWVCO supported this state “Climate Action Plan” in 2019. Reducing the use of fossil fuels for home heating/cooling, hot water, cooking, or generators can help meet goals.

LWVCO supports emissions reduction goals and policies for the benefit of our environment and public health and

To promote renewable energy

To defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem

To ensure a stable climate system for the future

Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue.

- Ann Sutton