



It is truly embarrassing when a respected industry media outlet is moved to publish a headline that reads like something from the Onion. Surely, the intent of HB 2701 is not to “solve” our energy problem; however, creating an absolutely meaningless renewable energy benchmark via legislative fiat sends a signal around the world that is both comical and tragic.

While there may be some merit to arguments regarding regulatory oversight of the Arizona Corporation Commission, the unfortunate implication of HB 2701 will be a march backwards at a time when Arizona needs to step up and show vision and leadership. I'm all for Nuclear energy, but simply rolling Nuclear into a Renewable Energy Standard (without substantially raising the REST goal) while also abandoning the Distributed Generation requirement is hardly leadership. As the above headline attests, it is disingenuous at best and will place Arizona's energy policy on equal footing with our national ranking in education.

Such a regressive step will have immediate and unfortunate consequences for our economy and our ability to grow existing business and attract inward investment. You are by now undoubtedly aware of the very real consequences we face by essentially “dis-inviting” economic investment from foreign companies seeking to capitalize on the exceptional opportunities presented in Arizona and the desert Southwest.

Today Arizona boasts over 125 companies involved in solar rooftop installation. These enterprises employ a wide range of workers, many of whom have transitioned from the construction industry and other sectors experiencing recessionary decline. The larger and more successful of these companies have enjoyed rapid growth and are poised to hire significant numbers of additional workers.

Beyond the “Install” sector is an Arizona-based ecosystem-in-development. It represents distributors; machine shops; solar panel factories; manufacturers of inverters and other electrical equipment; producers of structural support systems; design, engineering and construction companies; sales, marketing and finance and human resource organizations; research & development organizations; and so on. Employees of this emerging ecosystem - hundreds of workers currently and thousands more to come – are the foundation of a growing tax base and the force behind a multiplier effect that is the very definition of economic growth and prosperity.

To rebuke this reality / potential in a “power struggle” with the Corporation Commission is most assuredly throwing out the economic baby with the constitutional bathwater.

I urge you to decouple the issues at hand and reframe your approach to this bill. To act otherwise does our citizens, our children and Arizona's economic future an enormous disservice.

Respectfully,  
Jeffrey Luth