



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

March 26, 2024

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Mac Warner
Secretary of State
State Capitol Complex
Building 1, Suite 157-K
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Enrolled House Bill 5528

Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 5528. This bill would increase the incremental generating capacity of renewable electric-generating facilities.

While I have always said that West Virginia is an “all-of-the-above energy state” and we continue to pursue new energy development opportunities throughout the Mountain State, it is very important that we are careful not to cripple our great coal-fired energy industry in the process. West Virginia is an energy powerhouse and always has been, providing the coal that powered and built this Nation. Bringing in new energy development technologies certainly provides a good opportunity for our State and our citizens. In recent years, however, it seems that the power companies servicing our State are being incentivized at the corporate and federal levels to drastically reduce and eliminate, specifically, coal-generated power. Not only will this arbitrary reduction in coal-powered energy end up costing consumers more, but this drastic change can only further endanger our nation’s energy security and put West Virginians at the mercy of the national power grid to ensure we keep the lights on at home.

I fear this well-intentioned bill will further encourage these companies to drop coal-generated power and continue to turn toward more expensive options outside of West Virginia. The ripple effect of such drastic and rapid change could lead to West Virginians paying more on their power bills, as these entities try to pass their cost increases down the chain to the consumer; it could also lead to job loss by putting coal mines and coal generating facilities out of business quickly. All of this ultimately leads to harm for our citizens. Accordingly, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 5528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

cc: The Honorable Craig Blair
President of the Senate

The Honorable Roger Hanshaw
Speaker of the House of Delegates