



March 20, 2024

Leadership of the Kentucky House of Representatives
Kentucky General Assembly
Frankfort, KY 40601

To the Leadership of the Kentucky House of Representatives:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce — the leading national advocate for businesses and pro-growth, free market policies — will, at times, engage on proposed state policies that have potential broader implications, including the establishment of policy precedent that could extend beyond a particular state’s lines. This letter addresses just such an issue. The U.S. Chamber opposes Senate Bill 349, An Act Relating to Energy Policy and Declaring an Emergency, which would impose counterproductive new layers of regulation on energy companies across the Commonwealth dealing with mandates from aggressive federal regulation.

Federal environmental regulations are restructuring the national energy sector, often resulting in higher energy costs across the country. SB 349 would create an additional layer of regulation upon a sector that is already highly regulated at both the federal and state levels. This bill will only serve to levy additional costs upon consumers, for undefined and uncertain benefits, while doing nothing to combat pervasive federal regulatory overreach.

The realities of modern regional energy markets are complex, requiring both tested and new approaches to move forward — across the Commonwealth and nationally — in the most cost-effective manner. Merely holding onto the past, as is proposed by SB 349, would result in higher costs across Kentucky and potentially threaten future reliability by not allowing energy companies to plan for and invest in meeting current and increasing future energy needs.

We urge the General Assembly to vote “no” on SB 349.

Sincerely,

Heath Knakmuhs
Vice President and Policy Counsel
Global Energy Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce