

Testimony of the Lignite Energy Council
Presented Before the Interim Information Technology Committee
Rep. Robin Weisz, Chairman
Bill Draft Previously Discussed by the Committee Related to the Implementation of the
Results of a Hardware Relocation and Consolidation Study
Sept. 25, 2014

Good afternoon, my name is Tyler Hamman, I'm the director of government affairs for the Lignite Energy Council.

I would like to respectfully submit the LEC's comments for the record on the draft bill before the committee today that would implement the recommendations of the hardware relocation and consolidation study.

As a matter of good government, the LEC supports efforts to increase efficient operation of state agencies and better stewardship of taxpayer resources. However, as an association that represents companies regulated by the Public Service Commission, the LEC has concerns with consolidation of their IT systems.

In our long history of working with the PSC, our members have had no issue, problems, or concerns with the agency and the reliability and security of their IT systems. Therefore, our primary concern would be moving servers out of the PSC and into another agencies' jurisdiction.

When coupled with the study's conclusion that consolidation would have no cost savings, potentially *greater* costs for the PSC, and no real benefit, we question the need for the PSC to be consolidated under this bill. In short, a solution in search of a problem. Today's lignite industry is faced with many issues on the regulatory front, and we hope to avoid additional risk of problems or delays with permits, revisions, exchange of data or information, or anything else that could interfere with communication between the PSC and our members due to the issues of another government agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments, and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.