



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona State Legislature
Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers (R-25)
Senate President Karen Fann (R-1)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Study Committee on Energy Announced

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker Rusty Bowers and Senate President Karen Fann today announced the formation of a new joint Ad Hoc Study Committee on Energy which is intended to convene during the interim to solicit information from experts and the public about Arizona’s evolving energy industry.

In a joint statement, Speaker Bowers and President Fann said, **“Arizona’s energy needs are diverse. Right now, there is an incredible transformation occurring in the electric industry, incorporating new energy resources, and addressing emerging customer needs without compromising service. In Arizona, this transition is taking place amid tremendous growth in manufacturing and other energy intensive industries. Our ability to keep pace with these trends depends on Arizona’s robust energy grid and the policies that supports it.**

“We are committed to ensuring Arizona’s electric service remains reliable and affordable and believe a serious discussion by policy makers on this is merited. The interim work of the committee will enable future discussion of the state’s energy policies and the benefits and risks of energy ‘deregulation’ by providing a robust base of knowledge for policymakers and regulators.”

The study committee is expected to consider evidence and testimony regarding:

- Opportunities to better serve Arizona’s electric consumers;
- Reliability of a diversity of power generation, transmission, and distribution resources;
- Affordability of a diversity of power generation, transmission, and distribution resources;
- Arizona’s governance over electric generation supplies and transmission capabilities;
- The current state of the electric industry in the state of Arizona; and,
- The current electric industry in other states.

Membership of the nine-person committee includes legislators and others that are jointly appointed by Speaker Bowers and President Fann:

- **Representative Gail Griffin – CO-CHAIR (R-14)**
- **Senator Sine Kerr – CO-CHAIR (R-13)**
- **Representative Sarah Liguori (D-28)**
- **Senator Lisa Otondo (D-4)**

- **Malcolm Hightower**, Director, Residential Utility Consumer Office
- **Greg Patterson**, Executive Director, Arizona's Competitive Power Alliance
- **Russ Patzer**, President, Arizona Solar Deployment Alliance
- **Ted Geisler**, Chief Financial Officer, Arizona Public Service
- **Bobby Olsen**, Senior Director, Salt River Project

The committee is required to submit a report by December 31, 2022, containing a complete record of its findings.

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