



SUPPORT SB 21-072

What does this bill do?

1. Requires electric utilities to join a Regional Transmission Operator (RTO) before 2030, unless the PUC finds it is not in the public interest or they cannot find one to join due to lack of interconnection.
RTOs can:

- Improve system reliability by enable access to more diverse generation resources;
- Save ratepayers money; and
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by transitioning to a cleaner electricity system through resource sharing across a broader geographic footprint.

2. Creates the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority (CETA), which:

- Facilitates development of new transmission lines and corridors;
- Has bonding authority and powers of eminent domain;
- Modeled off of New Mexico’s successful “Renewable Energy Transmission Authority;”
- Interstate corridors are emphasized as possible interests, with regional focus which helps improve reliability; and
- Utilities shall be the entities building and owning, but CETA can designate corridors and promote a line, and construct it if a utility does not.

3. Ensures timely review of new transmission lines; the CoPUC may:

- Approve a cost-effective line if it promotes reliability, helps meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard, or it can reasonably accommodate growth and joining an RTO; and
- Have a final order issued within 180 days, or else it is deemed approved.

How will this bill helps renewable energy development?

- Utility participation in an RTO creates larger market for renewable energy projects to sell power into. An RTO will increase energy supply options for utilities by separating control over transmission and generation.
- Lack of available transmission is one of the biggest constraints for building new renewable energy facilities. This bill:
 - Will result in thoughtful transmission planning and development
 - RTOs help minimize “pancaked” transmission rates, where generation facilities pay extra to move power across power lines
- More renewable energy and transmission projects means more jobs for Colorado workers and greater tax base for Colorado communities.

Interwest Energy Alliance Membership:

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American Clean Power Association
Apex Clean Energy
Avangrid Renewables
Clearway Energy Group
Community Energy
ConnectGen
Cypress Creek Renewables
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