



K A N S A S

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

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Nicole Corcoran, Press Secretary
785.368.8500

Governor vetoes bill with same elements of the last;
remains committed to seeking common sense compromise

Veto message for House Substitute for Senate Bill 148 from Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

“Legislators who promote the expansion of coal-fired plants in Kansas made a strategic decision with SB 148. Rather than working toward a compromise solution or having any conversation about energy policy, this bill was drafted behind closed doors. It contains the same onerous elements of the previous bill that I vetoed; and again, these are elements I cannot accept and will not support.

“I am still hopeful we can have meaningful discussions about a true compromise; rather than being sent the same bill in disguise yet again.

“This maneuver has done nothing to address the issues at hand – developing comprehensive energy policy, providing base-load energy power for Western Kansas, implementing carbon mitigation strategies and capitalizing on our incredible assets for additional wind power. Furthermore, putting the regulatory permitting process into the hands of a Legislature whose membership changes every two years would set a dangerous precedent and result in real regulatory uncertainty.

“President Bush has announced a new goal for stopping the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, and recognized that the power sector must make significant efforts to achieve that goal. Since the most likely way to achieve this goal is through a cap and trade system, which would, in effect, tax carbon, it would be unfair to Kansans, for our utilities to build coal fired plants for other states until we can evaluate the costs of those plants for Kansas tax payers and rate payers.

“We must remember the decisions we make today have a huge impact on Kansans for generations to come. The challenges before us can and should be met through a common sense solution.

“Pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I veto House

Substitute for Senate Bill 148."

With this action, Sebelius has signed 91 bills this legislative session and vetoed two.

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CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 212S, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1590
Voice 785-296-3232 Fax 785-296-7973 <http://www.governor.ks.gov>