

Committee moves Wyoming wind tax to full Senate

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The Senate Revenue Committee has agreed to send a proposal to tax wind energy generation in Wyoming to the full Senate for consideration.

The state House already passed House Bill 101, and Gov. Dave Freudenthal has been a vocal supporter.

Opponents say the tax could hurt wind development in Wyoming and argue the state should more carefully consider its overall tax structure for the industry.

Revenue Committee chairman Sen. John Schiffer said Tuesday that he will seek to initiate a Joint Revenue Committee study of the wind tax before the Legislature convenes again next year.

House Bill 101 would impose a \$1 per megawatt hour excise tax on wind energy production. The bill calls for revenue to be split 60-40 between counties where turbines are located and the state.

The tax would be levied starting in 2012, which lawmakers say gives the Legislature time to refine the wind tax.