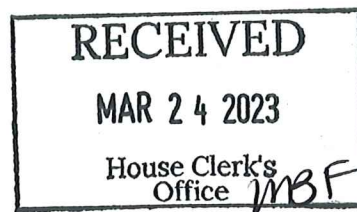




COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 4 OF THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION**

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 4 of the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing House Bill 4 because, while it does good things, it ultimately removes local input on important decisions.

House Bill 4 appropriately requires operators of merchant electric generating facilities to submit plans for the decommissioning of a facility to detail, among other things: the removal of all above-ground facilities and underground components and foundations; the return of the land to the state prior to construction; securing a bond to assure performance of the decommissioning obligation; and communication with landowners so their requests can be accommodated.

However, House Bill 4 removes the Kentucky State Electric Generation and Transmission Siting Board's authority enforce any conditions of the construction certificates it approves. Because the Board's membership is comprised of members from the counties in which a facility will be located, House Bill 4 removes local input on enforcement of the construction certificate, including the bonding and decommissioning requirements.

For this reason, I am vetoing House Bill 4.

This, the 24th day of March, 2023.

Andy Beshear
Governor