

September 16, 2013

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State Auditor Troy Kelley
Insurance Building, Capitol Campus
P.O. Box 40021
Olympia, Washington 98504-0021

Dear State Auditor Troy Kelley,

In 2006, 52% of voters approved I-937 which “requires large utilities to obtain fifteen percent of their electricity from new renewable resources such as solar and wind by 2020 and undertake cost-effective energy conservation.” Despite the abundance of Washington’s hydro power, this source of renewable energy was excluded from counting towards the I-937 targets.

Because I-937 charged the State Auditor’s office with certain monitoring requirements of its provisions, we believe it would be appropriate for you to utilize the powers granted by I-900 to conduct an independent performance audit of how the law is impacting the energy market in Washington and if the law’s promises, including reducing carbon emissions, are being realized.

Among the issues we believe should be explored:

- How many others states/countries with renewable energy production targets exclude hydro generated power from their targets?
- Is the implementation of I-937 saving businesses and consumers money as promised?
- Are the renewable energy targets of I-937 resulting in cheaper energy production as promised?
- Have the renewable energy requirements reduced the carbon intensity of Washington’s electricity?
- How much have the policies of I-937 either reduced or increased the electricity bills for businesses, governments, and private residences and by how much?
- Have the policies of I-937 resulted in Washington utilities selling excess hydro power to other states?

With the Governor vetoing a more limited study concerning I-937 in the state budget we believe the independent voice that you are able to provide with a performance audit will be critical as the state moves forward with implementing I-937 and ensuring its promises are met.

Sincerely,

Dann Mead Smith
President, Washington Policy Center

Jason Mercier
Government Reform Director, Washington Policy Center

Bob Tippet
Board Member, Washington Policy Center
President, Tippet Land and Mortgage Company (Pasco)

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