

MIRS Capitol Capsule

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Granholm: Blame Bishop On Energy

Gov. Jennifer [GRANHOLM](#) will moderate a town hall meeting on alternative energy at the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday, but she won't have a renewable package signed into law that she can bring with her.

The Governor said she enlisted Texas oilman (and big Republican donor) T. Boone **PICKENS** to write a letter to the person she fingered at a press conference today for holding up the process.

"There is one man standing in the way of job creation," Granholm said. ". . . His name is (Senate Majority Leader) Mike [BISHOP](#)."

Granholm added that if the legislation isn't taken up, she'll look into "what options are available administratively." She would not specify what they might be.

Matt [MARSDEN](#), spokesman for the Rochester Republican, said the Governor was doing her usual shtick in blaming the Senate GOP.

"While it's complementary that she would say Mike Bishop wields that kind of power, anyone familiar with the legislative process knows one person can't hold up the process," Marsden said. "Besides, she's the Governor and she hasn't been able to get this done."

Sources have told *MIRS* that the Democrats, particularly Granholm, have been pushing hard for the energy package to bring to their convention.

When asked if it would be a footnote to her event that Michigan hasn't adopted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), she said House and Senate leaders were on board, but Bishop wasn't.

The Governor touted the House package that passed with bipartisan support and enjoyed the backing of both environmentalists and business groups, including the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. She said there have been discussions over a compromise and there were a "number of Republicans in the Senate that would love to vote for it."

Granholm stressed renewable energy was not a partisan issue, but proceeded to blame Bishop for the holdup anyway.

She called out Bishop a day after Senate GOP spokeswoman Kristyn **LADD** sent out a press release saying the goal was to "finalize the issue" the week of Sept. 9. The release stressed the need for tax credits for energy efficiency and opt-outs for businesses.

"Senate Republicans recognize that the use and generation of renewable energy is one of the most important issues facing our state," said Bishop. "We want to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels by using more renewable energy, but we also have to face the troubling reality that state residents are already having problems making ends meet.

"Therefore, we must be responsible in our approach on statewide energy policy to pursue our unified

goal of energy independence, while taking every precaution to protect our already overburdened residents and job providers."

Some Republican sources questioned whether Bishop should have sent out the release, which may have provoked Granholm's outburst at the press conference, and instead just focused on negotiations.

But Marsden laid the blame on Granholm, saying she hasn't called his boss since June to discuss the energy package.

"We are interested in mitigating costs for consumers. I think the people who have to pay the bills will appreciate that instead of just jamming something through so she can have her little trophy at the convention," he said.

Granholm spokeswoman Liz [BOYD](#) said the Governor found out about the town hall on Thursday and it was finalized this morning.

Granholm also has served on the platform committee and she said she pushed to make sure the "energy section reflects what Michigan is pushing for," as well as fair trade. To that end, she linked Republican presidential candidate John **McCAIN** to President George W. **BUSH**'s policies, accusing him of not enforcing trade agreements.

"Sen. McCain has certainly picked up that mantle of free trade at any cost," she said.

The Governor declined to answer any questions on indicted Detroit Mayor Kwame **KILPATRICK**, even though her potential Sept. 3 removal hearing has added to her workload. She will miss the first day of the DNC (See "[Kwame Case Crimping Gov's Style](#)," 8/20/08).

The Governor will arrive at the DNC late Tuesday afternoon and stay until Thursday night or Friday morning. First Gentleman Dan **MULHERN**, a delegate, and the couple's three children are arriving for the weekend activities Saturday before the kickoff Monday.

When asked if she was disappointed to arrive late, Granholm said yes, adding, "Duty calls."