

Cox: Electricity legislation would bring large rate increase

by David Eggert | The Associated Press

Tuesday March 11, 2008, 4:37 PM

LANSING, Mich. -- Attorney General Mike Cox on Tuesday blasted legislation he said would significantly raise electricity rates by requiring more alternative energy and decreasing competition.

Cox, a Republican, added that having more green energy is laudable. But he said Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm is over-promising its job-creation potential.

He accused Granholm and Democratic House Speaker Andy Dillon of giving in to the state's dominant utilities, Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy.

The utilities say Michigan's current electric-choice law needs changing so they can get financing to build new plants.

Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd said the governor has a comprehensive energy plan to save consumers money, grow the economy and create jobs.

"Clearly, the attorney general's position is the jobs killer," she said.