

Union opposes NV Energy breakup, Reid backs it, and utility claims to be neutral

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

NV Energy reaffirmed its plans Tuesday to remain neutral on a ballot measure that would start a multiyear process of ending the company's regulated monopoly on supplying electricity. Later in the day, organized labor confirmed plans to oppose the measure, while Sen. Harry Reid voiced his support.

The ballot measure known as the Energy Choice Initiative, with financial support from Nevada gaming and technology companies, would create a competitive retail energy market in which customers would be able to buy electricity from suppliers other than NV Energy.

Under the language of the measure, a proposed constitutional amendment, NV Energy could continue operating the grid, handling transmission and distribution for suppliers.

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