John Spencer Acton LD 1535

I am against this bill due to the lack of meaningful change that this bill will impose while seemingly only adding a degree of oversight for good citizens. We live in a free country and do not need government watching over our shoulder every step of the way in every aspect of life. Illegal grows that are already operating already have their electrical in place (otherwise how are they operating currently?). Due to this, mandating permits for new upgrades will not stop anyone who already operating illegally from continuing to do so. The alert for anyone that has a 500% increase in usage from month to month also will not catch anyone that is already illegally operating. Their usage will stay the same as it has been, since they have likely been operating illegally for more than just the last month. This might deter new operations. But it seems Maines issue is already happening. Its not a factor of preventing it, its a factor of bringing it to a halt. Which this will not achieve. In reality, this bill will likely only cause issues for average citizens who see a spike in usage during summer months when we turn on our A/C to combat the heat. Or regular farmers that only utilize greenhouses and the summer, and the electricity that goes into running a proper greenhouse. Even someone that buys an electric car and begins charging at home. These are all examples of everyday people that do not want or need to deal with explaining themselves for living our every day lives. Additionally, a bill like this will only encourage the people doing illegal things, to have to turn to more extreme and dangerous methods. Though I do not want any "illegal" grows around my family, I especially do not want them setting up in a dangerous way that could result in fires due to improper wiring, as result of them having to jimmy rig their setup to avoid permits. To think an illegal operation will "just stop" rather than try to find a sneaky way around the road block, is naive and I feel creates more threat to public safety than anything else. Many, if not all towns already impose permitting requirements, inspections and other safeguards to ensure safety and legality. This is enough and furthering the requirements for permitting is an over reach of government that will likely provide no actual benefit.