

MIRS Capitol Capsule

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No Energy Deal, No Session

Without a breakthrough on energy, the Senate canceled Wednesday's session today -- the only session slated for August -- and the House, hours later, followed suit.

According to a well-placed source, no deal has been reached yet on the energy package and, without a deal, there's no reason to hold legislative sessions at this time. That means no action or discussion on recently jailed Detroit Mayor Kwame **KILPATRICK**, either.

"We could get it done if both sides wanted to," one legislator said.

Sources indicate a deal is not far off, although some House members are reticent over tax credits Senators are pushing, wondering if the state can afford them. It looks like negotiators are close to signing off on the target of a 10 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 2015, without being cushioned by energy efficiency. That's Senate Minority Leader Mark [SCHAUER](#)'s (D-Battle Creek) prediction for the final deal, which is what Democrats and the Governor have been pushing for.

Some Senate Republicans contend that the complex nature of legislation warrants a thorough review.

"First of all, we need to see it in writing," said Sen. Patty [BIRKHOLZ](#) (R-Saugatuck).

The rumor going around Lansing late in the afternoon was that Senate Majority Leader Mike [BISHOP](#) (R-Rochester) had blown up the deal and asked that both sides return to square one.

Bishop Spokesman Matt [MARSDEN](#) pointed the finger at Democrats, who he said really wanted the bills passed before convention time.

"Whoever spread that rumor obviously isn't anywhere close to the negotiating process," he said.

"There were very productive meetings held today."

Several involved in the talks, which included legislators and energy officials, echoed Marsden's sentiment. Gov. Jennifer [GRANHOLM](#), Bishop and Speaker Andy [DILLON](#) (D-Redford Twp.) are highly involved in negotiations, which added another dynamic to the process.

The comprehensive energy legislation will be taken up in September at the earliest, sources tell *MIRS*, although there is overall optimism that both chambers will pass it before the election.

Birkholz noted there are political conventions and Labor Day weekend to contend with.

"House members are anxious to get back out and campaign," she noted. "They have election year

concerns."

Marsden said legislation should pass before the election, as there seems to be the will on both sides.