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#### **(Neb)-Ricketts Signs Bill Merging DEQ And State Energy Office**

By: John Axtell Posted at: 04/08/2019 08:53 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Governor Pete Ricketts on Friday signed a bill merging the two state agencies that oversee environmental and energy issues. The Nebraska Dept of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska State Energy Office are now the Nebraska Dept of Environment and Energy.

Ricketts said that DEQ head Jim Macy will oversee the combined agency. The Energy Office hasn't had a permanent director since David Bracht stepped down last year.

The governor proposed the merger as a way to increase state government efficiency, with officials estimating it could save roughly \$207,000 in annual personnel expenses - money that will be used for other operating costs and state aid programs.