

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/7/14

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS KELLY, Giessel, Bishop, McGuire, Dyson, Dunleavy

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the Governor to investigate and report to the legislature regarding the**
2 **development of large coal power plants and associated electric grids to provide energy to**
3 **residents of the state.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS** the quality of life of the residents of the state is threatened by high
6 energy costs; and

7 **WHEREAS** many residents of the state are struggling to provide for their basic needs;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** federal actions consistently slow, impede, or stop the development of the
10 energy resources of the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Environmental Protection Agency continues to
12 disregard the science-based permitting process of the state; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has closed the most
14 productive portions of the coastal plain of the state, preventing the pipelines and existing
15 infrastructure of the state from being wisely utilized; and

1 **WHEREAS** the development of a large coal power plant and associated electrical grid
2 in the state would provide energy to residents of the state; and

3 **WHEREAS** the residents of the state need access to the resources of the state;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
5 Governor to investigate, without regard to federal permits or restrictions, the development of
6 large coal power plants and associated electric grids to provide energy to residents of the state
7 to heat their homes and keep their lights on; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Governor to
9 evaluate and report back to the legislature on the feasibility of locating a large coal power
10 plant

11 (1) on state or university land adjacent to hundreds of years' worth of coal
12 reserves in the Alaska Range;

13 (2) on state land adjacent to the vast coal resources of Cook Inlet; and

14 (3) on state or Alaska Native regional corporation land adjacent to many
15 hundreds of years' worth of coal reserves in the western Brooks Range; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Governor to
17 report back to the legislature on

18 (1) the potential costs of coal plants ranging in size from 200 megawatts to
19 two gigawatts of electricity generation;

20 (2) the cost of a kilowatt of coal-generated energy in comparison to
21 hydroelectric, natural gas, and other energy sources;

22 (3) the technological potential for transmission of coal-generated energy,
23 including high-voltage direct current, and how that transmission might provide for the needs
24 of residents of the state not part of the Railbelt power grid;

25 (4) how a large mine-mouth coal plant might help balance future needs of the
26 state with hydroelectric and other types of power generation.