HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ___

Introduced by: Riecken, Ubelhor

A HOUSE RESOLUTION supporting the lead role of states in the regulation of carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

Whereas, A reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to Indiana's economic growth, jobs, and the overall interests of its citizens;

Whereas, Indiana supports an all-the-above energy strategy because it is in the best interest of Indiana and the nation;

Whereas, The United States has abundant supplies of coal that provide economic and energy security benefits;

Whereas, Coal provides affordable and reliable electricity to the citizens of Indiana;

Whereas, Carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled

power plants could threaten the affordability and reliability of Indiana's electricity supplies and risk substantial job losses through the premature closure of power plants that have just invested in pollution controls to meet the recent mercury regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);

Whereas, Carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. coal-fueled power plants represent only 3 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas, The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that U.S. electric sector carbon dioxide emissions will be 14 percent below 2005 levels in 2020 and that carbon dioxide emission from U.S. coal-fueled power plants will be 19 percent below 2005 levels in 2020;

Whereas, On June 25, 2013, the President directed the Administrator of the EPA to issue standards, regulations, or guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified, and reconstructed fossil-fueled power plants;

Whereas, The President expressly recognized that states "will play a central role in establishing and implementing carbon standards for existing power plants";

Whereas, The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to establish a "procedure" under which each state shall develop a plan for establishing and implementing standards of performance for existing sources within the state;

Whereas, The Clean Air Act expressly allows states, in developing and applying such standards of performance, "to take into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful life of the existing source to which such standard applies";

Whereas, The EPA's existing regulations provide that states may adopt "less stringent emissions standards or longer compliance schedules" than the EPA's guidelines based on factors such as "unreasonable cost of control," "physical

impossibility of installing necessary control equipment," or other factors that make less stringent standards or longer compliance times "significantly more reasonable"; and

Whereas, It is in the best interest of electricity consumers in Indiana to continue to benefit from reliable, affordable electricity provided by coal-based electricity generating plants: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1   SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges the
2   EPA, in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions
3   from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of Indiana and other
4   states and to rely on state regulators to develop performance standards
5   for carbon dioxide emissions that take into account the unique policies,
6   energy needs, resource mix, and economic priorities of Indiana and
7   other states.
8   SECTION 2. That the EPA should issue guidelines and approve
9   state-established performance standards that are based on reductions
10   of carbon dioxide emissions achievable by measures undertaken at
11   fossil-fueled power plants.
12   SECTION 3. That the EPA should allow Indiana and other states
13   to set less stringent performance standards or longer compliance
14   schedules for power plants within their jurisdiction.
15   SECTION 4. That Indiana and other states should be given
16   maximum flexibility by the EPA to implement carbon dioxide
17   performance standards for fossil-fueled power plants within their
18   jurisdiction.