

Introduced by

Senators Casper, Kreun, Oban

Representatives Porter, Roers Jones, Seibel

1 A concurrent resolution urging the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that
2 threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota and to increase its
3 support for research, development, and deployment for next generation carbon-based energy
4 generation.

5 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has at least an 800-year supply of economically recoverable
6 lignite coal at current production rates and has become the second largest oil producer in the
7 United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, these energy resources have resulted in North Dakota having the fourth lowest
9 energy costs in the nation; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota lignite industry generates over seventy-five percent of the
11 electricity in the state and provides affordable electricity to more than two million families
12 throughout the upper midwest; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the lignite coal industry contributes more than 3.4 billion dollars in total
14 business activity to North Dakota; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the lignite coal industry employs fifteen thousand individuals with some of the
16 highest wages in the state; and

17 **WHEREAS**, economic analysis by the North Dakota State University agribusiness and
18 applied economics researchers estimates a new five hundred megawatt, coal-based electric
19 generating facility would create 54.3 million dollars in personal income, 40 million dollars in
20 retail sales, and 173.7 million dollars in total business activity each year; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the current value of the state's existing coal-based infrastructure is 18.6 billion
22 dollars; and

23 **WHEREAS**, state tax revenues attributed to the lignite industry have increased from
24 61.4 million dollars in 2000 to over 100 million dollars in 2015; and

1 **WHEREAS**, current federal regulations represent a de facto ban on the construction of new,
2 efficient, and cost-effective coal-based power plants and threaten the continued operation of
3 existing coal-based power plants; and

4 **WHEREAS**, federal policy gives other electric generation resources a significant
5 competitive advantage; and

6 **WHEREAS**, uncertainty around federal regulations continues to discourage investment in
7 coal-based facilities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota continues to serve as a model for responsible production of its
9 natural resources, including a longstanding standard of reclaiming mined land to as good or
10 better than before mining; and

11 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota continues to be one of only seven states meeting all federal
12 ambient air quality standards; and

13 **WHEREAS**, affordable, reliable power is the backbone of North Dakota's established and
14 emerging industries; and

15 **WHEREAS**, advancements in carbon capture utilization and storage can unlock enormous
16 potential for the state's energy industries and economy;

17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
18 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

19 That the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the federal government to refrain from
20 enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North
21 Dakota and to increase its support for research, development, and deployment for next
22 generation carbon-based energy generation; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government is urged to withdraw and revise
24 regulations and other administrative actions that negatively impact the ability to utilize North
25 Dakota's lignite coal reserves for affordable and reliable domestic power; and

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government is urged to work with the state,
27 the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the North Dakota lignite industry to design
28 and implement regulatory programs based on sound science with inputs from local sources,
29 recognize the status of existing technology, and develop timelines that make economic sense
30 for the producers and consumers of electricity and byproducts derived from North Dakota
31 lignite; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government is urged to increase its
2 partnership with the state of North Dakota and industry to develop technological solutions to
3 enable the continuation of lignite-based electric generation; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
5 to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental
6 Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Department
7 of Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.