

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1005

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in the northern great plains.

WHEREAS, the citizens of South Dakota benefit from adequate, efficient, and affordable electricity, a reliable electricity grid, and a stable mix of proven generation sources; and

WHEREAS, having affordable electricity is vital to South Dakota jobs, economy, and the well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, high energy costs particularly affect low income and elderly persons; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed several regulations that would enact a de facto ban on the construction of new, efficient, and cost-effective coal-fired power plants, and threaten the continued operation of existing coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the United States Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement has proposed regulations that could significantly restrict access to the vast coal reserves in North Dakota and Wyoming, on which South Dakota electric consumers rely; and

WHEREAS, in January 2016, the Department of the Interior announced a moratorium on new federal coal leases at the urging of President Obama during his State of the Union Address; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan is estimated to cost the American economy more than three hundred billion dollars, with no measurable reduction in global carbon dioxide levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulations for carbon dioxide emissions from new and existing coal-fired power plants go beyond the authority provided by existing federal statutes; and

WHEREAS, if the federal government continues to issue regulations and administrative actions that are not based on sound science, economic, and a technological reality, it will have significant impact on consumer electricity costs, and the utilities that serve South Dakota will struggle to provide low-cost, reliable electricity; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of proposed federal regulations present a significant threat to the viability and dependability of the northern great plains' electric grid:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota urges the federal government to refrain from continuing to impose regulations and other administrative actions that prohibit or restrict the ability of utilities to continue providing low-cost and reliable power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Environmental Protection Agency refrain from finalizing regulations for carbon dioxide emission standards which requires new coal-fired power plants to meet an emission standard that is not achievable with current commercial technology, and which prematurely requires retirement or curtailment of existing coal-fired power plants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature urges the federal government to work with this state, the South Dakota congressional delegation, and the utilities that serve South Dakota electricity consumers to design and implement regulatory programs that are based on sound science, recognize the status of existing technology and development timelines, and that make economic sense for South Dakota businesses and consumers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chief clerk of the House of Representatives forward copies of this resolution by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and each member of the South Dakota congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 4, 2016
February 8, 2016

Dean Wink
Speaker of the House

Arlene Kvislen
Chief Clerk of the House

Matt Michels
President of the Senate

Kay Johnson
Secretary of the Senate